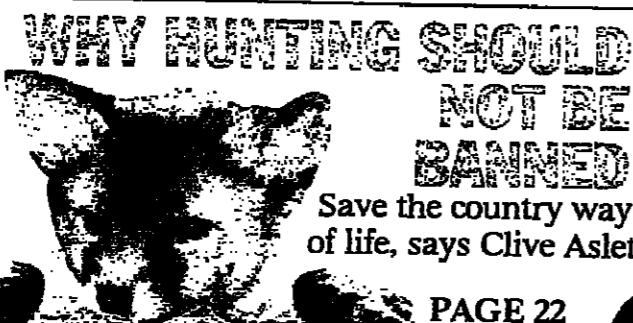


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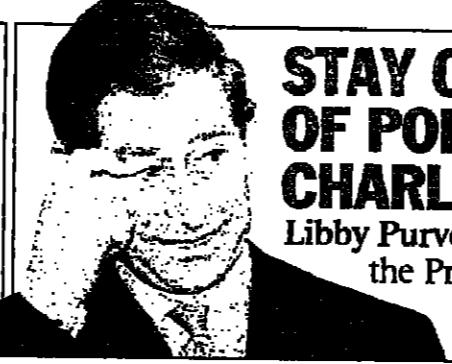
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TUESDAY JUNE 17 1997



Save the country way of life, says Clive Aslet

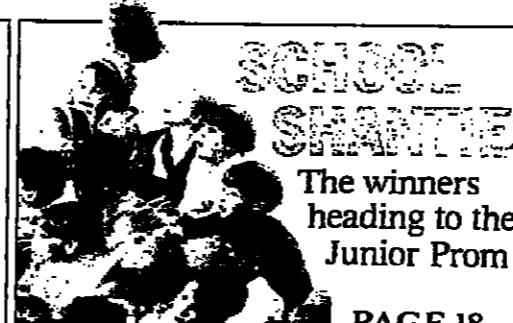
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STAY OUT OF POLITICS CHARLES

Libby Purves educates the Prince

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SCHOOL SHANTIES
The winners heading to the Junior Prom

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BRITAIN'S FIRST SEED FOR 15 YEARS

Henman bids for the Wimbledon men's title

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'Nothing prepared me for what I saw', says doctor who ran to RUC men shot in cold blood

Ulster talks off after double killing

BY NICHOLAS WATT, PHILIP WEBSTER AND AUDREY MAGEE

THE Government severed all contacts with Sinn Fein last night after the IRA murdered two policemen in cold blood in the centre of Lurgan, Co Armagh.

Constable John Graham and Constable David Johnston died instantly when they were shot in the back of the head while on the beat near the town's RUC station.

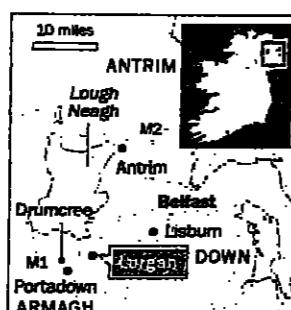
A doctor who was on the scene within seconds said that there was nothing he could do to save the two men slumped on the ground 30 yards from his surgery. Dr John McMullen said: "Nothing prepared me for what I saw. I can't believe anyone could do this sort of thing to a fellow human being."

Constable Graham, 34, was married with three daughters aged ten, seven and two; and Constable Johnston, 30, a full-time member of the RUC Reserve, was married with two sons aged seven and three. Both held the force's Service Medal.

They were ambushed as they walked past a parochial hall in Church Walk, just off Lurgan's main street, at 11.53 am. The gunmen, who were thought to be wearing women's wigs, fired up to six shots at close range and then ran off to a getaway car which was later found burnt out on a nationalist housing estate.

Within two hours, the IRA's North Armagh brigade had admitted that it was responsible for the first RUC murders since the 1994 ceasefire.

The Prime Minister was



ister, who described the killings as coldly calculated murder which had been deliberately timed to cause maximum tension just before the height of the Protestant marching season.

Mr Bruton said the location of the double murder — near to the site of contentious parades — was chosen to cause maximum sectarian strife.

"The attempt has clearly been made by the Republican movement to generate sectarian passion for their political purposes. They live by sectarianism and they seek by this murder to engender further sectarian bitterness."

The RUC Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan, agreed. He said: "No twisted logic can justify such acts. No words can put a gloss on cold-blooded murder and no cause can be furthered by violence which is not only abhorrent in itself, but carried out in circumstances which can only further inflame an already tense and volatile situation — and which is designed to do just that."

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein President, was signing copies of his autobiography in a Belfast bookshop when he was told about the shootings. Remaining seated, he looked straight ahead and nodded before saying: "At a personal and at a human level I am shocked. I think that any death in this situation diminishes all of us. These deaths must act as a huge incentive on those of us in political leadership to redouble our

efforts to get the peace process restored."

Mitchel McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's national chairman, chose the same form of words, saying he was "personally shocked" by the killings, "which diminish us all".

But Sinn Fein's response was dismissed as "weasel words" by Mr Blair and Mr Bruton, who said that the party should come straight out and condemn the killings. Mr Bruton said: "I am appalled by

the way in which Mr Adams ransacked the dictionary to find new words to avoid condemning this brutal murder, committed by a movement of which Mr Adams is a leading figure."

He added that he hoped his successor, Bertie Ahern, would abandon plans to see Mr Adams before taking office next week. "I would be appalled if he went ahead with a meeting in these circumstances."

Mr Blair agreed, adding: "I would like to see Mr Adams face up to the responsibility of condemning it outright, no hesitation, no weasel words."

And if there could be any contact with Sinn Fein, he said: "There can be no question of talking in these circumstances."

There are now fears that loyalist paramilitaries will end their ceasefire. Gary McMichael, leader of the Ulster Democratic Party — political

wing of the terrorist Ulster Defence Association, said the shootings had created a dire situation: "I hope we will see restraint after this deliberate provocation. But each of these terrible tragedies makes it more difficult."

His colleague, David Adams, said: "The future looks dark. We have to face the reality this may well push the loyalists to the brink."

But the Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble urged



Blankets cover the bodies of the two RUC men who were shot in the head in Lurgan, Co Armagh, by IRA gunmen wearing women's wigs

Final protester is evicted at airport

The last protester occupying Manchester Airport's proposed second runway was evicted after a tunnel collapsed, trapping him and a sheriff's officer for five hours.

The five-month security operation, during which 210 protesters have been arrested, is estimated to have cost the airport and contractors about £4 million.

Page 2

£1,000 windfall for shareholders

Around £8 million policyholders at Norwich Union became at least £100 richer as the latest demutualisation bonanza hit the high street. Norwich shares first traded at 25p before falling to 32½p, which is still 34½p higher than the expected initial price of 29p.

Page 27

Euro rolled out after pact satisfies French honour

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHARLES BREMNER IN AMSTERDAM

EUROPEAN leaders last night launched the new single currency coins after France and Germany papered over their differences.

A classic European Union compromise at the summit here led to France giving way to Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Tony Blair and dropping its objections to the rigid budgetary rules that will govern monetary union through a stability pact.

In return President Chirac and Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, won the explicit agreement of the EU to put the creation of jobs at the top of its agenda through a new "jobs and growth pact" that will stand alongside the stability pact. Under the deal Germany and Britain were



The euro for your pocket from 2002?

able to claim that no new European funds would go into job creation projects.

The European Commission, delighted that the latest setback to its cherished dream of a single currency had been overcome, swiftly staged a news conference to display the single currency coins that, under present plans, would become legal tender in 2002.

Continued on page 2, col 7

Row buried, page 14
Anatole Kaletsky, page 22

Hague poised for second-round win

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

WILLIAM HAGUE powered ahead in the Tory leadership contest yesterday, gaining the support of Gillian Shepherd and with enough declared voters to go into Thursday's third round.

Mrs Shepherd, the former Education Secretary, joined Michael Howard and Peter Lilley in backing the former Welsh Secretary. With at least 20 MPs yet to declare, the battle for the 47 votes of the Lilley and Howard campaigns continued until late last night.

Mr Hague's total of public declarations is 56 — one above the minimum required to go into Thursday's final ballot.

Supporters of Kenneth Clarke privately conceded that Mr Hague had moved decisively ahead. The John Redwood team said it was catching up and would fight Mr Hague in the final round. As the three

teams completed their final calculations last night, Mr Hague was expected to finish first with Mr Redwood closing the gap on Mr Clarke.

At a meeting of 120 Tory MPs, Mr Hague infuriated Mr Clarke's supporters when he reiterated that only MPs prepared to back his opposition to a single currency would join his Shadow Cabinet.

"This is my party. Follow me," he told the meeting.

Mr Redwood, who many observers said was the most polished performer, refused to exclude heavyweights such as Mr Clarke.

In a carefully timed intervention, the Labour Party said that a Hague victory would lead to the defection of at least ten pro-Europe Tories.

Leading Article and Letters, page 23

Physicists find grain of truth in child's play

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE mystery of why wet sand makes better, longer-lasting, sandcastles has been solved.

Schoolchildren have always known that soggy sand makes tougher turrets and battlements. But the physics of the effect and why, when the sun has dried out a sandcastle, it still stands has remained a mystery until now.

The findings have come from researchers at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, who have created their own beach made out of polystyrene beads the size of grains of sand to observe what they call the "wet sandcastle effect".

The team, led by Dr Peter Schiffer, has discovered that tiny but powerful "water bridges" are formed between grains of wet sand. The bridges stick the grains together in clumps, creating an effect similar to when mortar is used to stick bricks together. Dr Schiffer, whose team's findings are published in *Nature* later this week, said yesterday that the water bridges used surface tension to bind the granules together. The scientists have also found that the amount of water needed is far less than might be expected — more than 90 per cent of the water coating the sand is actually redundant. Dr Schiffer said this was because grains are not perfectly spherical or smooth. Less than 1 per cent of water on the grains' surfaces is actually used in

building granule-binding bridges. And they will remain, even when the sun dries the rest of the sand out, the scientists have found.

Dr Schiffer, who declined to comment on how much the research was costing, said unravelling the properties of coated granules was not just for fun. It is believed that the basic physics could revolutionise thinking on the structural strength of medicinal tablets or the concrete used in bridges and buildings.

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Clark sleeps through divine thunder and saintly sermon

AN ENORMOUS clap of thunder yesterday heralded the arrival for Questions of Stuart Bell, the new Member representing the Church Commissioners. MPs glanced heavenwards. The high windows above the chamber rattled. A scared Mr Bell (Lab, Middlesbrough) scuttled in, looking equally rattled.

Nobody was sure whether the dramatic electric storm rumbling around the Palace of Westminster signalled divine displeasure at the appointment, or was designed to

impress newly elected Hon Members with the importance of the Almighty's attaches to the Church Commission's monthly five minutes' grilling by MPs.

But the thunderclap failed to rouse Alan Clark (C, Kensington and Chelsea). Chin on chest, Mr Clark had been sunk in what was presumably deep thought for most of the Questions to Defence Ministers that preceded those to Church Commissioners.

His eyes were shut, his head had dropped forward and one

hand spread across his famously chiselled jaw, covering his mouth. Mr Clark looked profoundly at peace.

Even the mention of Clark's new constituency's name failed to jolt him from his meditations. The sure-footed Defence Secretary, George Robertson, defending the Government's defence review, said the idea had been endorsed by voices as diverse as that of CND and of "the Hon Member for Kensington and Chelsea".

All eyes moved to Mr Clark

but his own remained at rest, head sunk — if anything deeper on to his chest. A colleague beside him turned to gauge his reaction, noted the Zen-like calm, and looked hastily away.

Mr Clark's serenity had remained unshaken even by an intervention from Martin Bell (Independent, Tatton).

ed to cut the British Army's commitments in Bosnia, but rather than he wanted reinforcements to personnel.

A chap who had entered Parliament on a progressive ticket, crusading to clean up Tory corruption, now found himself adopting the tone of a retired major writing to *The Daily Telegraph* about the overstretched Hussars.

Earlier, Mr Clark had seemed momentarily distracted from his reveries by a loud anonymous yelp from a fellow-backbencher. Dart Taylor

(Lab, Stockton S), glancing at some notes and displaying a sudden detailed knowledge of the JP 233 airfield denial weapon, had asked the Defence Secretary whether he had anything to say about its possible inclusion in the ban on landmines. By a strange coincidence, Mr Robertson had some remarks prepared on this very subject, and advised Ms Taylor, who was agog, that the JP 233 was to be banned.

I suspect that were we only to be granted access to Alan Clark's rich interior life, we should find he disagrees.

"No!" yelped an unseen Tory, shocked. It is encouraging to realise that, though our principal Opposition may be teased by a few peripheral uncertainties on sideshows like the European monetary system, the British constitution and the future of the welfare state, Tories are rock solid on the things that matter to the generation they must win over: assisted places, the defence of fox-hunting and the manufacture of landmines.

I suspect that were we only to be granted access to Alan Clark's rich interior life, we should find he disagrees.

Mull crash widow accepts £500,000

The widow of an Army intelligence officer who died with 28 others when a Chinook helicopter crashed on the Mull of Kintyre in 1994, accepted more than £500,000 damages from the Ministry of Defence yesterday. The exact amount accepted by Delyth Gregory-Smith, 42, whose husband Richard was a lieutenant-colonel, was not disclosed. She has two young children. The helicopter was going from Northern Ireland to a conference at Inverness, when it hit a mist-covered mountain killing all on board.

Riding student 'whipped'

Police are investigating claims by a student stable lad that he was ordered to lay on an office floor and was "whipped" with a fire branch by an instructor at the Northern Racing College based at Rosington Hall, Bawtry, near Doncaster. Simon West, 17, left after three weeks of a 12-week course alleging other assaults. The college said it had begun its own inquiry but the accused instructor had not been suspended.

Synod debates homosexuality

The Church of England will face its most divisive issue since the ordination of women priests when the General Synod meets in York next month to discuss homosexuality. Dozens of lesbian and gay clergy and their supporters are expected to turn up to demand that the Church abandon its stance that clergy must choose marriage or celibacy, and recognise same-sex relationships. The synod will debate the bishops' 1991 report, *Issues in Human Sexuality*.

Cut-price alcopops criticised

The Co-op, which has banned the future sale of alcopops after concerns about under-age drinking, was criticised for selling off stock for as little as 50p. The drinks usually retail for more than £2. Gary Ward, of the Health Education Authority, said the cut price would appeal to young drinkers. A Co-op spokesman said that only bottles already on shelves were sold at a discount at the weekend and that all unsold bottles were removed from sale yesterday.

Baby catapulted from car

A baby was unhurt after being catapulted out of the window of a car as it hit a verge between Invergarry and Kyle of Lochalsh in the Scottish Highlands. Avasta Farboud, four months, landed on long grass as the car, driven by his father, Shani, hit a fence, which stopped the vehicle from crushing the child beneath it. His mother, Penny, who had just stopped breast-feeding, said: "There wasn't a scratch on him. It was incredible."

Surgery for Siamese twins

The Siamese twins born in Manchester in April are to be separated by Professor Lewis Spitz, the country's most experienced surgeon in this sphere. The girls, who are joined at the abdomen and share a liver, have been transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, in central London, in preparation for the operation this week. Professor Spitz and his surgeon Edward Kiely have carried out separations in six cases in the past 13 years.

War hero to sell medals

Brigadier Michael Calvert, 84, a former Chindit hero and SAS commander, is to sell his medals, which include his DSO and Bar, to help to meet his medical bills. Military historians say the collection does scant justice to his extraordinary courage in a career that spanned five decades. The brigadier, who still glories in his nickname of "Mad Mike", insists the collection must not be broken up. It is expected to fetch up to £15,000 at Spink and Son on July 17.

Euro rift is settled

Continued from page 1
ain's controls are safe from challenge in the European Court of Justice. Mr Blair succeeded in removing from the treaty references to Britain keeping border controls "necessary for the purpose" of monitoring immigration.

The wording has been changed to say that border controls are retained "as the

United Kingdom may consider necessary".

Today a new agreement tackling the problem of fish quota-hopping is expected to be announced, although it is likely to fall short of what British fishermen have been demanding.

Summit relief, page 14
Anatole Kalafsky, page 22

Manchester protest ends after tunnel collapses

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE last protester occupying Manchester airport's proposed second runway was evicted yesterday after a tunnel collapsed, trapping him and a sheriff's officer underground for five hours.

Mark Benson, 23, was brought to the surface at 4pm on his eighteenth day inside the "Cakehole" tunnel at the Flywood Babylon Council Estate camp near Styall in Cheshire.

His plan to emerge voluntarily in the morning was overtaken when a six-foot section of side wall collapsed fifteen feet inside the tunnel entrance at 1am, caving in an area shored by the professional tunnellers, known as Men in Black.

The sheriff's officer was struck by a falling plank and fire crews and ambulances were called. Rescuers later said the pair were not in immediate danger but had to lie side by side within the dark, narrow passage with air pumped through while four other sheriff's officers worked to free them.

Randal Hibbert, the Under Sheriff of Cheshire, said the collapse, caused by water penetrating the heavy Cheshire clay, was the most serious incident in 28 days since he began evicting 100 protesters occupying the £172 million development site.

He denied protesters' claims

that his men were responsible or trying to stage-manage the final day. "I have said before that if the protesters continued to occupy trees and tunnels it was only a question of time before some incident occurred," he said.

It is very fortunate indeed that today's incident was not more serious. They place not only their own lives in danger but also those of the rescuers and I hope a lesson has been learnt."

Mr Benson, an articulate middle-class former NHS drugs auditor from Oldham, is a veteran of the M66, Newbury, and Fairmile protests. One of the first activists to arrive on the Manchester site in January, he was among the most expert tunnellers in the six camps and was nicknamed Logic and Posh Foxie.

Looking dazed when he emerged at 4pm, he was given a medical examination before being led to a police van, supported by a policeman and sheriff's officer, and taken to Wilmslow police station.

The five-month security operation, during which 210 protesters have been arrested, is estimated to have cost the airport and contractors AMEC and Tarmac about £4 million.

Mr Hibbert yesterday refused to disclose his budget but confirmed that Mr Benson and his fellow-tunnellers



Through the Cakehole: Matt Benson is led away after 17 nights beneath the Manchester airport development

Muppet Dave, Denise and Neville had beaten the seven-day record set at Fairmile by Daniel Hooper, the underground protester known as Swampy.

He admitted that the Cakehole was an "engineering feat" that held out three to four days longer than expected.

"No-one has ever seen anything like it before — the complexity of it, the engineer-

ing of it, ten doors, mostly steel, set in hard concrete. It is quite different from anything before."

He insisted that the contractors had not incurred penalties for delaying the work and would move onto the site the week after next.

Jeff Gazzard, a spokesman for the protesters, said he was concerned to learn of the collapse. "One might raise an

eyebrow, I'm not a great believer in conspiracy theories but I'm not surprised to see the potential for a massive rescue operation on the last day of the siege," he said.

He said the campaign against the second runway would continue and other protests were inevitable. "We represent the radicalisation of protest," he said.

"We have gone through the

stages of chatting to neighbours over the garden fence, going to public meetings and the iniquitous one-sided fence of the 101-day farce inquiry."

"Now we are bringing together the young, the idealistic and the committed. If we haven't stopped the development we have, in my view, made it the last runway to be built on mainland Britain," he said.

Switch in tactics that culminated in a cold-blooded double murder

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, AND RICHARD FORD

THE murder of two RUC officers in Lurgan yesterday marks a serious escalation by the IRA, which has been switching tactics in the 16 months since the end of its ceasefire.

The terrorists initially concentrated their violence on mainland Britain, with the massive Docklands bombing in February 1996, which heralded the end of the ceasefire, and the devastating bomb in Manchester a year ago.

Hopes that IRA terrorism would not return to Northern Ireland were dashed last October when the IRA carried out a double car-bomb attack at the Army's Northern Ireland headquarters on the outskirts of Lisburn, Co Antrim. The Ulster Volunteer Force and the

Ulster Defence Association refrained from resuming their campaigns because the IRA had attacked a specifically British target, not loyalists or RUC officers.

But after two gunmen walked into the Royal Belfast Children's Hospital on the Falls Road and shot two policemen who were guarding a Unionist politician, loyalists responded by planting a small bomb under the car of a republican in Belfast. The bomb was the first of a series of attacks by the UDA and UVF which were not declared by the terrorist organisations.

The IRA renewed their campaign after the customary Christmas truce. On New Year's Eve a wedding reception at Belfast Castle had to be

abandoned after an IRA sniper in Londonderry. The terrorists then observed a tactical suspension of their campaign in the run-up to the general and local elections to improve Sinn Fein's vote. The tactic paid off.

The terrorists who yesterday killed two police officers by shooting them in the head at close range used a method as old as the Irish republican movement itself. It involves the terrorist stalking their victim, walking up from behind and then firing at point-blank range into the victim's head.

Friends of Sinn Fein, the republican fund-raising organisation in the United States, raised \$216,000 (about £130,000) in the past six months, a third more than in the previous half year.

Reid brings back Gulf War doctor

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Army doctor assessing more than a thousand Gulf War veterans suffering from a range of illnesses has resigned after being subjected to complaints from some of the ex-servicemen.

Lieutenant Colonel Banu Bhatt had taken over from Wing Commander Bill Coker, who was promoted to group captain and posted to America. Veterans claiming to be victims of Gulf War syndrome were upset because they felt Group Captain Coker was sympathetic to their cause. He had expressed concern about the possible effects of organophosphate pesticides on Gulf troops before their widespread use was admitted by the previous Government.

Yesterday John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, announced that he had asked Group Captain Coker to return part-time to deal with the veterans. Lieutenant Colonel Banu Bhatt has been allowed to leave his post immediately. A total of 1,305 ex-servicemen have been assessed and 337 are waiting.

Group Captain Coker will continue in his post in the United States but will return regularly to Britain as part of a new MoD advisory group which will help Dr Reid in overseeing the ministry's response to veterans' concerns.

Major Ian Hill, chairman of the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association, said: "I am delighted at the decision to bring Group Captain Coker back."

Brigadier Michael Calvert, 84, a former Chindit hero and SAS commander, is to sell his medals, which include his DSO and Bar, to help to meet his medical bills. Military historians say the collection does scant justice to his extraordinary courage in a career that spanned five decades.

The brigadier, who still glories in his nickname of "Mad Mike", insists the collection must not be broken up. It is expected to fetch up to £15,000 at Spink and Son on July 17.

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MARK PHILIPPOUSSIS

Holder of the record for the world's fastest serve

Holder of the Stella Artois singles championship

Holder of the Stella Artois doubles championship

Holder of a Dunlop tennis racket

DUNLOP

ACCEPT NO LIMITS

Campbell rejects reports of a suicide attempt, saying she suffered an allergic reaction to penicillin

Model denies taking overdose after row

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS AND JOANNA BALE IN LAS PALMAS



Naomi Campbell and Joaquín Cortés together at a party during London Fashion Week in February

NAOMI CAMPBELL shrugged off reports of a suicide attempt yesterday as she appeared smiling at a Paris photographic studio.

The model, who was admitted to hospital in the Canary Islands on Saturday, said that she had suffered an allergic reaction after taking penicillin for a chest cold she had caught in New York.

Reports from Spain that she had taken an overdose of barbiturates after a row with Joaquín Cortés, her boyfriend, were "a load of rubbish", she said. Miss Campbell, 27, who appeared fit and well, said: "I am very much alive, as you can see."

She added that she was worried about the effect that the reports of a suicide attempt would have on her elderly grandmother and her young brother, who had to put up with teasing about her at his school.

Friends said that Miss Campbell had been laughing and happy since her arrival aboard a private aircraft at Le Bourget airport early yesterday. They said that she worked on an advertising shoot in Paris promoting her own brand of jeans in the afternoon. "She's much better," said a source at the Daylight studio where the photo-shoot took place.

Miss Campbell left the Ca-

nary Islands on Sunday after spending a week at a five-star hotel with Señor Cortés. The couple were reported to have stayed in separate bedrooms.

A Spanish magazine published photographs of Señor Cortés on the beach with another woman, and said Miss Campbell had been dressed by its pictures.

Yesterday, the model dismissed suggestions that she had split up from her boyfriend, saying: "Everything is fine between us. You have to put up with this sort of thing when you're well known."

Two Spanish ambulance-men who took Miss Campbell to hospital said they arrived at

the hotel to find her conscious and sitting up in bed with Señor Cortés and the hotel doctor at her bedside. Francisco Taboas and Victor Ramírez, the paramedics, said that the model had complained of stomach pains and feeling generally unwell after "taking something" but did not want to go to hospital.

Señor Ramírez, an ambulance-man at the Nuestra Señora del Pino hospital in Las Palmas, Grand Canary, was called to the Hotel Santa Catalina at 4am on Sunday. He said: "Her boyfriend told us that they had been out and had supper and a few drinks and that it could have been

that that upset her." Señor Ramírez took her blood pressure and temperature, which were normal. Señor Taboas said: "She said she wanted to stay at the hotel, but Señor Cortés and the doctor were saying she should go to hospital. It was a fairly relaxed atmosphere and everyone was chatting quite calmly. I suppose the doctor was being careful because of who she is."

Miss Campbell was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit where, according to Spanish newspapers, she had her stomach pumped.

El País, one of Spain's leading national newspapers, yesterday stood by its story that she had taken an overdose of Valium after a "furious row" with Señor Cortés. The newspaper quoted an unnamed pilot from the Spanish airline Iberia who had been staying at the hotel and said that he heard a "bitter row" near the couple's rooms. According to the newspaper, Miss Campbell during the row threatened to commit suicide. It also quoted "medical sources" confirming that Miss Campbell had taken an overdose of Valium.

Señor Cortés was last night expected to perform the last of three dance shows called Gypsy Passion in Las Palmas. He has declined to comment on the incident.



Naomi Campbell in Paris yesterday. She worked on an advertisement for her own brand of jeans

Parents say doctors hid truth about dead son

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL



Robert Powell: he died from a rare disease

FIVE doctors anxious to protect their reputations fraudulently covered up their negligent treatment of a ten-year-old boy, whose death could have been prevented; the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Robert Powell died in hospital in 1990 of Addison's disease, a rare but treatable condition affecting the adrenal glands. His parents, William and Diane Powell, claim the five GPs were guilty of a conspiracy to hide the truth from them: that with the right treatment he could still be alive today.

Four months before his death he had become seriously ill and was admitted to hospital, where the disease was suspected and further tests planned but not carried out.

The hospital informed the boy's GPs of the adrenal problems and discharged him to their care, saying that if there were a recurrence of the illness they should refer him back to the hospital.

Robert became ill again 16 days before his death but despite knowing of his condition the doctors did not refer him back to the hospital until hours before he died, even though five of them saw him on seven separate occasions in that time, the court was told.



William and Diane Powell, who have suffered severe reactions to the loss of their son

a doctor, told the court that the GPs were accused of altering medical notes, removing documents from Robert's file and replacing them with fabricated ones in an attempt to "minimise their liability" for his death.

For six years the couple have been fighting to discover the facts surrounding their son's death. Their case is regarded as a test of a family's right to be told the truth after the death of a loved one.

Dr Powers said the "pathological grief reactions" from which both parents still suffer were a direct result of the GPs' "dishonest actions taken to preserve their professional reputations".

Mrs Powell suffers panic attacks at the thought of her son's death and has witnessed her husband's decline from a well-adjusted family man to an obsessed, anxious and depressed shadow of his former self, the court was told.

The doctors, he said, had been guilty of a "grave breach of trust", greatly compounding the parents' grief. Dr Powers quoted from Mr Powell's statement to a psychiatrist: "All I wanted was truth and honesty. We took our son to people we trusted and they've called us liars. I think they should be struck off."

Mr and Mrs Powell complained after their son's death to the local family practitioner committee, where four of the GPs were cleared of failing to render appropriate medical services and one was reprimanded. It was during this process that it became apparent to the parents that some of Robert's records had been substituted with forgeries.

Mr and Mrs Powell brought a civil action against both the hospital and the doctors, claiming not only damages arising out of Robert's death but also for the psychiatric damage caused to them.

The appeal continues.

Students pelt tourists who disturbed their revision

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

STUDENTS at a Cambridge college have been threatened with expulsion after they pelted tourists in an open-topped bus with tomatoes when their revision was disturbed.

The increased popularity of Cambridge as a tourist destination has been a source of extra tension in the city since the onset of examinations. Rowdy parties in punts have already attracted the ire of academics concerned for their students' concentration.

Undergraduates at Sidney Sussex College decided to take matters into their own hands when the bus with boozing commentary stopped outside their rooms. The Japanese tourists were bombarded with vegetables from

period. Cambridge now attracts more than three million visitors a year, many of whom take guided tours around the colleges. They bring millions of pounds into the Cambridge economy, with the university being a prime attraction.

However, the conflicting demands of tourism and academic life represents a perennial problem.

Roger Coey, chief environmental health officer of Cambridge City Council, said that tour companies were encouraged to use headphones, rather than microphones, to keep their customers informed. "There is a potential for there to be a problem, so I can understand this incident occurring."

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HOME NEWS 5

Call for low prices at the people's opera

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Heritage Secretary wants to force the Royal Opera House to become the "people's opera" by widening the range of cheaper tickets and increasing the number of broadcast performances.

Chris Smith feels that the £78 million lottery grant earmarked for the company should only be awarded on condition that access for ordinary people is improved markedly. "It must not simply be an exclusive place that only the toffs go to," he said.

In an interview with *The Times*, he called for cheaper tickets for all performances, even those featuring superstars such as Luciano Pavarotti — when a single seat can cost £275. He also seeks an increase in the number of television broadcasts in the number of relays to spectators in the Covent Garden Piazza.

The house was "in receipt of very substantial public funds, both from the lottery and the Arts Council for their general running expenses", he said. "In return for that, we wish to see improved access."

Acknowledging that there were complications over television broadcasts of performances involving special rates, he said: "It is something other institutions in Britain have got round. Glyndebourne broadcasts quite a number of productions. It

It must not simply be an exclusive place that only the toffs can go to

can't be beyond the wit of humankind to sort out decent agreements with performers and technicians." Broadcasts into the piazza "on a warm summer evening are a very good way of spreading the access of fine performances". Asked what might happen if the house did not meet his requirements, the Heritage Secretary said: "I won't contemplate failure at this stage."

He noted that the house had committed itself to improving access when it had submitted its application for lottery funding. That was one of his reasons for asking the Arts Council last week to conduct an external inquiry: "I'm anxious to hold them to those promises. It's top of my priorities. Their argument is that to attract international stars and

put on big productions, they need to shell out far more than modest houses do. My view is — if you want to charge £250 a seat to the corporate people in the stalls, make sure there is real access elsewhere."

He noted that a powerful performance did not necessarily require household names. "It's the quality that matters more than the name. Yes, it's good to get Pavarotti from time to time ... You need to balance names and quality and manage within a budget."

He added: "I suspect there are tensions within the organisation. There are some at the house who want to move in that direction and others who are resisting the idea. I want to get to the bottom of the conflicting interests ... I don't think that they've addressed this seriously enough." Although the opera house long ago specified that £2.5 million from the lottery grant would be used to cover redundancies during the closure period, the subject would be explored by the inquiry. Mr Smith is "uncomfortable" about the lottery covering such payments, though he acknowledged that the full complement of staff would not be required for the 28 months that the Covent Garden house is closed.

At the house, Keith Cooper, a spokesman, said that they were "absolutely committed to increasing access" but it was more complicated than anyone would imagine. Broadcasts into the piazza required the agreement of Westminster council and local traders. "It's not something we can automatically do as and when we choose." Safety issues were involved, he added, and they had to negotiate new rates with the unions. "There is an enormous willingness to try and address the issue."

He emphasised that a wide range of cheaper tickets were already available. Pavarotti appearances were "always going to be a premium event, just as Barbra Streisand is a premium event." He added: "We are earnestly engaged in looking at how we can make more lower-price seats available at each of our productions."

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The Antarctic field camp where Sir Peter Maxwell Davies will spend a month in search of inspiration

Composer seeks sound of silence

By DALYA ALBERGE

SIR Peter Maxwell Davies will be composing his next symphony in Antarctica. Inspiration, he hopes, will come from "an absolute silence" quite unlike anything he has experienced, even around his remote croft in the Orkney Islands.

Sir Peter, 62, a passionate environmentalist, will be spending a month there, suffering for art's sake in temperatures that could dip to -20C. Home will be a tent, shared with scientists from the British Antarctic Survey.

He said that the experience would be "a great luxury. I hope the music that comes out of it will justify it." He plans to write a homage to Vaughan Williams's *Sinfonia Antarctica*, whose premiere he attended in 1953. Vaughan Williams drew on his imagination but Sir Peter was invited by the British Antarctic Survey.

Seeking to promote the region's significance, the organisation asked the Philharmonia Orchestra to recommend a composer. The expedition will involve fund-



Maxwell Davies

ing from the Philharmonia and the Arts Council.

Sir Peter said: "The Antarctic experience will be an encounter with nature, with silence and emptiness such as one can never experience in Europe. I look forward to coming to terms with these new experiences in the symphony I will write."

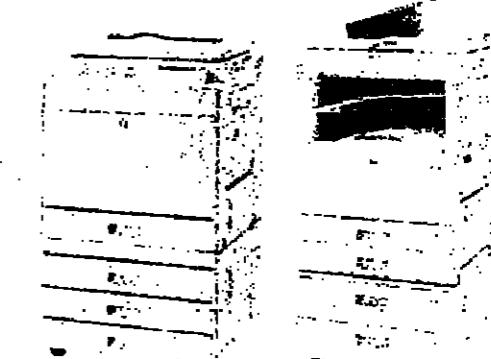
He leaves for the Rothera research station in December. The symphony will have its premiere at the Festival Hall, London, in 2001.

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Parents unite in garden tribute to murdered girls

DAVID JONES/PA

French police are criticised for failure to find Britons' killers

BY RICHARD DUCE

THE father of a French girl murdered in England was joined in prayer yesterday by the parents of two British girls killed in France as he dedicated a memorial garden to the victims of "senseless violence".

Villagers in Ombersley, Hereford and Worcester, close to where Celine Figard's body was found, raised £1,000 to create the garden in memory of the student who was murdered by a lorry driver as she hitched a lift in December 1995. It will feature plants that have links with France.

Bernard Figard and his wife, Martine, invited the parents of Caroline Dickinson and Joanna Parrish to yesterday's dedication at St Andrew's Church. Caroline, 13, was murdered on a school holiday in Brittany last year; Joanna, 20, was murdered in Auxerre seven years ago.

Standing by the memorial garden to Celine, 19, M Figard said: "In France it will always be remembered how the case of Celine was



Celine Figard

considered and handled and how many people have come together. The presence at our side of the parents of Caroline and Joanna is more than just a symbol. This garden should be a place of remembrance for all the young victims of blind and senseless violence. I would also like to associate

with them the families of people who murder. It cannot be easy for them to discover that a son, a husband, a father or a friend should be capable of such atrocity."

Roger Parrish, Joanna's father, said later: "We feel that the French authorities have not made as much effort as the British do." While British detectives painstakingly tracked down Celine's killer, Stuart Morgan, who is serving a life sentence, the murderers of Caroline and Joanna have not been found by French police.

John Dickinson, Caroline's father, said: "We had felt we ought to be here to show solidarity with the Figards and we are very impressed that they have included our daughter in their memorial. I understand that M Figard has spoken on numerous occasions on French television and radio to ask that people don't forget Joanna and Caroline. I believe that the investigation into Caroline's death is at a stage where fresh impetus is required urgently."



The parents of Caroline Dickinson and Joanna Parrish, who were murdered in France, in the memorial garden to Celine Figard

OU degree will widen access to legal career

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE first Open University degree course in law was announced yesterday in a move to broaden access to the profession.

The venture is a partnership between the Open University and the College of Law, which runs the professional one-year vocational courses for graduates wanting to be solicitors and barristers. Already 1,300 people have expressed interest in the course, which will cost £1,250 and will have to be completed in six years.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, said yesterday that the move was "an inspired step forward" which would help students of law who had child care or employment commitments or lived in areas with limited higher education facilities, and mature or disabled students.

In his first public speech since taking office, Lord Irvine said that the profession needed innovative people and innovative education. "This initiative provides a powerful stimulus to both."

Professor Nigel Savage, chief executive of the College of Law, said the venture would draw into the profession people from a wide variety of backgrounds. "This will be better for society and the profession."

The success of the profession, was, he said, in part due to those who had entered in

the 1960s and 1970s with the benefit of local authority grants. But the huge cut in such grants over the past ten years was threatening the profession's social diversity.

"Every year, like it or not, the legal profession is becoming more and more the preserve of the rich. The erosion of the value of the student grant, student loans and the possibility of university tuition fees makes the provision of an alternative route vital."

The first course will be offered from February 1998 for up to 1,500 students, with between 600-700 students on each of the three further courses to be introduced over the following three years. After completing the course, OU students will, like other law graduates, have to undertake further training to become solicitors or barristers.

Law is a very competitive subject at university, and mature students can struggle to secure a place. Now age should be no obstacle.

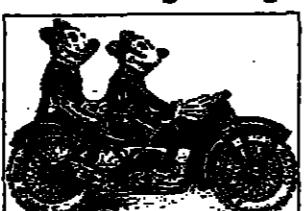
Lord Irvine said yesterday that he had told Lord Bridge of Harwich, the retired senior law lord, of the initiative. Lord Bridge enrolled as an OU undergraduate at the age of 75 on a series of courses in mathematics. He is now 80 and hopes to mark the millennium by graduating.

Law, pages 39, 41

Farmer rides off with £51,000 for Disney toy

A MICKEY Mouse clock-work toy, right, whose value was discovered on the *Antiques Roadshow*, sold for £51,000 at Christie's South Kensington yesterday (John Shaw writes). The tinplate motorcycle with Minnie riding pillion was made in Germany before the Nazis banned Disney toys and the demand Germanic ones.

Its original cardboard box attracted collectors from around the world. The winner was an American, who



paid more than double the estimate. The toy had been in the family of a Gloucestershire farmer since it was bought at Woolworths in the early 1930s.

Win tickets to the Lord's Test

The Times has eight pairs of the hottest tickets in town to give away for the second Test at Lord's. We have five for Thursday, two for Friday and a pair for Saturday, worth £66 a pair. For your chance to win one of the five pairs of tickets for Thursday call 0891 771 286 before midnight tonight with your answer to this question:

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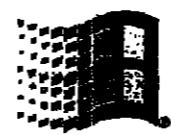
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Charity puts spiritual healers to the test

Actors will 'treat' patients in £45,000 medical trial

By ANJANA AHUJA

ACTORS willing to don crystal necklaces and a thoughtful expression are to take part in an unusual medical trial when the Wellcome Trust, the country's leading medical charity, pays £45,000 to put spiritual healing to the test.

The charity has awarded the grant to Neil Abbot and Edzard Ernst, Professor of Complementary Medicine at Exeter University, who will conduct a controlled clinical trial of whether spiritual healers do their patients any good. The money has come from the Sir Henry Wellcome Commemorative Award programme, a scheme to recognise "innovative, speculative, adventurous and novel" research proposals.

Professor Ernst said: "Healers try to transmit an undefined type of energy and love from themselves into the patient. They tend to pass their hands over the body without touching it. The way it is supposed to work by transmitting energy, totally defies the laws of physics. However, many healers work for free, which shows they are very dedicated and must be driven by conviction."

The most difficult hurdle for such a trial is the "placebo effect", where the effectiveness of a therapy may be partially due to the volunteer's belief that it will do them good. Medical researchers overcome this problem by dividing volunteers into two groups and giving one group the real drug and the other group a placebo.

After discussion with healers, Professor Ernst has decided to enlist 100 volunteers who suffer constant pain, such as back pain or arthritis, as there are fairly reliable techniques to assess the degree of pain experienced. Five healers from Exeter have agreed to participate. The studies should be completed within a year, and the results ready to publish soon afterwards.

Dr Abbot will also be studying the ancient practice of wort-

charming, where a healer is given the name of someone with warts or another skin condition and attempts to banish the disease purely by the power of thought.

Professor Ernst came up with two ways of eliminating the placebo effect in tests of spiritual healing. One was to hide the healer from view, behind a curtain. In some cases, a healer would be there. In others, the healer would be absent. The patient would not be told.

In the second scenario, which has yet to be approved by the ethics committee at Exeter University, actors will be "placebo" healers. They will observe real healers at work and copy them, with one crucial difference. Professor Ernst explained: "Instead of thinking about the patients, the actors will be asked to think about something banal, such as having a tooth extracted." Some patients in the trial will be treated by the actors, others by real healers.

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Edzard Ernst has discovered that acupuncture can help lower back pain but will not help smokers to quit

Gene study rejects compulsory testing for life insurance

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE British are more likely to die from cancer and heart disease than people from 26 of the world's most developed nations. Both illnesses can be passed on in genes, but compulsory genetic testing for those applying for life insurance is too expensive and too complicated to be worthwhile, according to a survey published today.

The British are nearly four times more likely to die from cancer as the Mexicans and five times more likely than the French to die of heart

diseases. The Chinese, Russians, Poles and Indians all suffer less from them. The Japanese and Canadians are among the five least affected by both.

There has been rapid progress in identifying genes linked to human diseases since 1989, when scientists discovered the one which causes cystic fibrosis. About 90 per cent of all human genes have now been uncovered by the worldwide Human Genome Project, with more than 5,000 disease-causing genetic mutations identified. Commercial tests exist to check for predispositions to Alzheimer's and breast

cancer. Hundreds more will soon be on the market.

Fears that people with disease-prone genes could become uninsurable if tests were compulsory have led Belgium, Norway and Austria and 13 American states to ban their use. France has a five-year moratorium on such tests, while the Dutch temporarily allow them only on policies worth more than £70,000.

The British insurance industry has deferred any decision until March 1999, but it requires anyone seeking a mortgage-linked policy to disclose the results of any genetic test they have taken. Insurers

guarantee not to take the findings into account for policies of £100,000 or less, saying they need to know only to help to assess risk generally.

They argue that information about the proportion of people suffering from genetic-related diseases can help them to provide affordable coverage for health care. This is because diseases such as Alzheimer's can prove far more costly to an insurer than an illness which brings sudden death.

But the Economist Intelligence Unit has found that so many genes are involved in diseases that a test for all of them would be prohibitive-

ly expensive. A comprehensive test for breast cancer genes costs £1,500, yet it would miss 20 per cent of cases.

Hugh Watkins, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Oxford, found that, even with relatively simple genetic disorders, mutations can have different effects. He thinks that scientists have over-promoted the predictive value of genetic testing. "With family histories in hand and banks of tests for blood pressure, cholesterol and heart functions, the added complexity and expense of performing genetic tests for common diseases is look-

ing less and less justifiable. Fears that genetic screening might bring about the breakdown of the principle of life insurance therefore look groundless," the report says.

Parents can check how often their children eat crisps and chips at school thanks to a payment card introduced by a Kent headmaster. Concern over unhealthy eating habits led Gordon Clapp, of Oldborough Manor Community School in Maidstone, to introduce a swipe-card system for all food purchases. Daily printouts are available to parents and Mr Clapp plans prizes for the healthiest eater of the term.

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**Oil diet
for cows
cuts heart
risk to
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BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS have developed a natural milk that protects against heart disease and has reduced levels of saturated fat.

Biochemists in Cork fed rapeseed oil to grazing cows and discovered that their milk, butter and cheese was less fatty. However, they also found that the new product worked actively to protect the heart against disease. Hospital tests in Dublin showed that the milk had beneficial effects for people with high-cholesterol levels.

The milk, which has yet to be sold commercially, is produced by controlling the amount of grass consumed by the cow. A grazing cow normally produces unsaturated fats during rumination, which are converted to saturated forms as they pass through the udders.

But the Cork team at Teagasc, the Irish agriculture and food research body, found that replacing one tenth of the 16 kilograms of grass consumed by a cow each day with rape oil had startling effects.

The oil increases the production of oleic acid, an unsaturated fatty acid known to protect against heart disease. A diet high in oleic acid reduces the presence of the soluble proteins in the blood plasma associated with coronary heart disease while increasing the level of other soluble proteins known to protect against heart disease.

A team at the cardiology unit at Beaumont Hospital in Dublin carried out a study of 30 patients with cholesterol problems to gauge the effect of the modified milk, cheese and butter.

Concern over unhealthy eating habits led Gordon Clapp, of Oldborough Manor Community School in Maidstone, to introduce a swipe-card system for all food purchases. Daily printouts are available to parents and Mr Clapp plans prizes for the healthiest eater of the term.

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Major deserves more than to be left in lonely obscurity

John Major has become the forgotten man of Tory politics — playing no public part in the leadership election, eager to hand over to his successors and ignored by fellow Tory MPs. Yet Mr Major deserves better of his party after helping to ensure that it had an unexpected five more years in office.

He will this week step into the lonely limbo of the former party leader still in middle age. Aged 54, he is the youngest former Prime Minister to return to the back benches for more than a century. Most PMs leave Downing Street

in their 60s or 70s, moving immediately or within a few years to the House of Lords, becoming avuncular or, occasionally, bitter elder statesmen.

The exceptions are not all happy. Rosebery left Downing Street when he was 48 and lived for a further 34 years, partly in waspish conflict with former colleagues. Balfour was 57 when he ceased being Prime Minister, battling for a further six years as party leader, and living for a further 24 years, half of which were spent in high office. Lloyd George lived for a further 22 years after being

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

forced out of office, and for at least the first ten of these he was seen as a potentially disruptive force.

Of recent examples, Harold Wilson was the same age as Mr Major when Labour lost the 1970 election, but unexpectedly returned to office three and a half years later before retiring on his 60th birthday. Sir Edward Heath has been a brooding presence for more than 23 years, so far, since ceasing to be Prime Minister at the

age of 57. Having spent nine arduous years as Labour leader, Neil Kinnock stepped down at the age of 50, then began another career as a European Commissioner.

Mr Major will no doubt suffer a period of obscurity. New leaders need to establish a distance from their predecessors, especially ones who have just lost an election. Mr Major is, of all people, sensitive to this need. He will take a low profile for the time being, defending his successor if necessary against party critics who plagued him.

However, he has clear-cut views

on the future of the Tory party. Before the election he was already involved in discussions about reform of the party organisation, of selecting candidates and of choosing the leader. Mr Major has told friends that the present system of electing the leader must be scrapped. He favours an electoral college with MPs having well over half the votes and ordinary party members' more than the fifth proposed so far. This would end the creation of national membership scheme. Party organisation also needs to be streamlined to get the best out of the pool of agents, together with a fast-track system for putting high-quality candidates who have been successful businessmen and the like onto parliamentary short lists, even if they have not served a long apprenticeship in local party work.

Mr Major is not a pessimist. He does not seem bitter to friends, having drawn a line over past events, though he needs to make up his mind before too long whether he wants to remain in politics. He believes that his party can recover more quickly than is commonly supposed, pointing to the big shifts in both France and

Canada, and he argues that the public has not voted for a big change in policy. He sees problems for Labour in reconciling its promises on public spending and local government. Perhaps, but the Blair Government has the opportunity to reshape the policy agenda on its terms. Above all, Mr Major has been making clear his belief that the Tories must vacate the middle ground. He may now have little or no influence at Westminster, but he still has a feel for the Tory party in the country.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour panel calls for action against bribery claim MP

BY JILL SHERMAN, GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

MOHAMMED Sarwar, the Labour MP accused of bribing a rival candidate at the general election, faces internal exile in the party after an interim report recommended disciplinary action against him.

Mr Sarwar, Britain's first Muslim MP, is expected to have the whip suspended next week pending the outcome of police inquiries into allegations that he paid a fringe party candidate in Glasgow Govan £5,000 to scale down his campaign.

The interim report by an inquiry panel set up last month found there was a case to be answered for "action grossly detrimental to the party". The report also recommends suspending him from being able to hold office in the party or represent Labour at any functions.

Last night Mr Sarwar continued to protest his innocence, saying that he was confident that the police inquiries would clear his name. He issued a statement that said: "I sincerely hope that once this has happened, the National Executive will lift the suspension. In the meantime I will continue to serve the Labour Party and the people of Govan to the best of my ability."

If the National Executive Committee endorses the report next Wednesday, Mr

Sarwar looks certain to be ostracised, being unable to attend any meetings of the parliamentary party or sit on backbench or cross-party committees. Although he will be expected to vote with Labour he will not receive any guidance from the Whips' Office.

The report, which was approved by Labour's development and organisation committee yesterday, also recommended that investigations into the bribery allegation should be frozen until the police inquiry was completed.

Mr Sarwar, 44, is fighting claims that he gave £5,000 to Islam Badar, who stood as an independent Labour candidate. Mr Sarwar has admitted giving the money to Mr Badar, but says that it was a loan. He is suing the *Newspaper of the World* over its publication of the bribery allegations.

The Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party, which was narrowly beaten by Labour in Govan, accused Labour of "a fudge". The SNP said the Government had failed the first test of its pledge to be tough on sleaze.

Labour's development and organisation committee has not recommended that disciplinary action be taken against any members of the Govan constituency party. Instead it has recommended a restructuring based on nine



Mohammed Sarwar: denies bribery claim and says police will find him innocent

branches rather than the present three. The change will take place in September and elections for new office bearers will take place in October.

Yesterday's ruling means that Mr Sarwar will automatically lose his seat on the Scottish Executive Committee of the Labour Party. He is one

of 38 members of the committee, which is controlled by adherents of new Labour. His place will be taken by Michael Ross, a Motherwell councillor, and a Blairite.

Catherine Jack, a member of Govan Labour Party, said that Mr Sarwar should resign. Ms Jack, who is associated

with Mike Watson's camp, the former MP who challenged Mr Sarwar in a bitter contest for the Govan nomination.

It doesn't clear anything up for Govan. It just leaves us with very little representation in Parliament. Mr Sarwar should do the honourable thing."

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Learner drivers face more studying

DRIVING INSTRUCTORS gave warning last night that more learners will fail their written tests because of an increase in the range of questions (Arthur Leathley writes).

The list of potential questions from which each test is compiled has nearly doubled to 700, greatly increasing the amount of preparation needed to ensure a pass.

The change, which will be effective from July 28, comes a year after the written tests were introduced. The pass mark has been increased once but examiners are still concerned that too many people are passing through rote learning without fully understanding the theory of driving.

Driving instructors, however, fear that more learners will fail the written test and be unable to book their practical test date.

Driving schools could then suffer from a loss of business. Richard Glover, chief executive of the British School of Motoring, said: "Some people don't take any driving instruction until they pass the theory."

The biggest study of urban

Prescott keen to revive plan for city road tolls

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT is trying to revive plans to combat pollution and traffic congestion by charging motorists for driving in large towns and cities.

The Deputy Prime Minister, who is also Transport and Environment Secretary, wants an early review of the benefits of road charges, possibly of £4 per vehicle. He is keen to make such a scheme a main element of the White Paper on the Government's plans to improve public transport and reduce people's dependency on the car.

Sir George Young, the previous Transport Secretary, decided that technical difficulties in introducing a traffic-charging system made it impractical in the short term. Mr Prescott, however, believes that it could be the best way of controlling traffic on some of the busiest urban routes, especially around London. Officials have been told to make charging a central part of the nine-month review of transport that will precede the White Paper to be published next spring.

The biggest study of urban

traffic charging suggested a £4 fee for driving into London and estimated that such a charge could reduce the number of inward journeys by 20 per cent, and the number of journeys within the capital by 40 per cent. Business and freight operators have opposed the idea of traffic charging but ministers believe that they can be won over if the scheme eases peak-time congestion.

Among suggestions that have been looked at in the past

are peak and non-peak charges to encourage motorists out of business hours when possible. The smart-card technology that is crucial to a charging system is expected to improve enormously over the next two years, making the prospect of a trial scheme more likely.

Yesterday Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister, backed a new code of practice intended to encourage train operators to provide a better service for cyclists. With fewer trains now having a guard's van, bicycles are more difficult to accommodate and on many services are banned at peak times.

Ms Jackson presented the first Cycle Mark award to Anglia Railways, which has led the privatised operators in providing a new range of cycle racks on some of its trains. She said that practical measures were needed to offer the public a greater choice of transport, adding: "I wholly support this drive to improve standards of service for cyclists on the railways."

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Ashdown urges joint approach on welfare

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN has called for politicians on all sides to work together on reforming the welfare system.

In his first major speech since the general election, the Liberal Democrat leader said that policymakers should be prepared to consider radical change wherever the system was not working satisfactorily. "Nothing poses a greater threat to the reform of our welfare state than knee-jerk deference to previous methods or traditional structures — the fatalistic assumption that this can't be improved, that that status quo is set in stone."

Mr Ashdown, speaking at Birmingham University, proposed ending the funding of pensions through National In-

surance in favour of a compulsory personal scheme regulated by the State but allowing people a choice of where to invest their contributions.

The idea is similar in principle to the one that was put forward by the Tories before the election and which was cited by Labour during the campaign as evidence that they planned to abolish the state pension.

Mr Ashdown said that his party was willing to work with others on welfare reform. "Without some degree of consensus, any one party's attempts at sensible reform will always be at risk from politicians ready to play on people's natural fear of change by opposing everything put forward."

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ada, and he argues that he has now won a place in the government. He was appointed to the cabinet in December, and now holds the post of Minister of State for Economic Development and Trade. He has been instrumental in helping to secure the release of British citizens held in Jordan. He has also been instrumental in helping to secure the release of British citizens held in Jordan. He has also been instrumental in helping to secure the release of British citizens held in Jordan.

PETER RIDDELL

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amend
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POLITICAL REPORTER

The new prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has dismissed the new policy of officially inspired murders as racist. Israel plans to submit a formal complaint to the United Nations Committee on Human Rights.

Mr Netanyahu has dismissed the new policy of officially inspired murders as racist. Israel plans to submit a formal complaint to the United Nations Committee on Human Rights.

International condemnation of the land-related murders,

including a threat by the United States to cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority, has had no effect. Palestinian protesters, in renewed violence that has left more than 80 Arabs injured in the past three days, have begun carrying banners declaring "Land or death".

The Palestinian security services, implicated in the land killings, made an ineffective attempt to cover up the circumstances of the latest death, claiming alternately that Mr Kamhawi had committed suicide or died of a heart attack.

His widow, Ansaf, told journalists that these official claims were untrue. She said her husband had no reason to take his life. "He would never have committed suicide," she added in an interview which could bring retaliation from Mr Arafat's security agents. "I saw his body. It showed signs of torture." He was buried in Nablus on Sunday.

Although mystery shrouded some details of Mr Kamhawi's final weeks, it emerged that he was initially arrested in the Palestinian-run city of Nablus two weeks ago accused of selling 15 acres of land to Jewish settlers. He was then sent to a notorious interrogation centre in Jericho where other Arab suspects have been savagely tortured in the past.

According to Palestinian sources, his questioning was conducted by agents of the

Militants force pop singer to cancel

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Irish singer Sinead O'Connor yesterday cancelled her appearance on Saturday at a Jerusalem peace concert after receiving a death threat from Jewish militants.

The threat, which came in a call to the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, said O'Connor would be killed if she set foot in Israel. The concert is to promote joint sovereignty of Jerusalem.

In the wake of the 1995 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, at a peace rally in Tel Aviv by a right-wing extremist, the threat was treated extremely seriously.

O'Connor said in her statement: "I was approached to appear at the proposed concert on June 21 on the basis of peace and reconciliation by a group called The Jerusalem Link, a Palestinian and Israeli women's joint venture for peace."

"Once I was made aware that a threat had been issued, I immediately cancelled my appearance. I am the mother of two young children. I will not do anything that could jeopardise their future, my own safety and the safety of the musicians and crew that work with me."

The Israeli organisers of the open-air concert reacted to the cancellation with dismay. "This is a sad day for Israeli democracy," said Dalia Shetet, one of the concert's organisers. "These extreme rightwingers have shown that they can dictate how the rest of us must live our lives just with a single threat of violence."

THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 17 1997

OVERSEAS NEWS 11

Dead land dealer 'was tortured by Arafat's agents'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

Hakem Kamhawi, 57, died on Sunday at a hospital in the increasingly lawless Palestinian self-rule town of Ramallah, where the bodies of the three previous land dealers murdered by Palestinian hit squads have been dumped since the Justice Minister announced last month that selling property to Jews was a capital offence.

The land issue, together with the continuing failure of the latest Egyptian diplomatic initiative, is seen as the main reason behind the new upsurge of Israeli-Palestinian violence which raged yesterday for a third day, leaving at least 38 Palestinians wounded in Hebron by Israeli troops and an Arab youth shot and wounded by a Jewish settler in the Gaza Strip.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, last night accused Yassir Arafat's Palestinian Authority of provoking the new wave of violence and said that Palestinian police were not taking action to prevent the attacks on Israeli targets.

International condemnation of the land-related murders,

including a threat by the United States to cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority, has had no effect. Palestinian protesters, in renewed violence that has left more than 80 Arabs injured in the past three days, have begun carrying banners declaring "Land or death".

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Leading article, page 23



A Jewish settler in the Gaza Strip tries to run down Palestinian television journalists in his tractor yesterday. Earlier he fired pistol shots, wounding one Palestinian in the knee. The media had gone to meet Palestinians protesting for the past week against land confiscations by Jewish settlers

Militants force pop singer to cancel

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER



O'Connor: feared for herself and her band

of two young children. I will not do anything that could jeopardise their future, my own safety and the safety of the musicians and crew that work with me."

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Watergate's poison of mistrust lingers on

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

EXACTLY 25 years after Watergate, most Americans view the scandal as a watershed which led to a universal distrust in the Government.

As America tries to exorcise the ghosts of the break-in on June 17, 1972, and the resignation of President Nixon two years later, a survey by *Time* magazine found that 78 per cent of the country believed Watergate had diminished the credibility of the presidency. While some experts view the scandal as a reaffirmation of America's constitutional democracy at work, many involved said Watergate still cast a long shadow over the process of government.

Howard Baker, the former Republican senator who gained fame on the Watergate committee for his insistent question "What did the President know and when did he know it?", said the country had failed to recover from the consequences. "My direct concern about Watergate," he said, "other than the obvious fact that we went through a great political trauma, is that

the example of Watergate and the cynicism that followed may turn off young men and women who ought to be in government and who ought to be aspiring to political office."

In practical terms, Watergate resulted in the most sweeping reform of election law. Previously, individuals could donate unlimited amounts of money to candidates. Foreign donations were

not banned. Hours before Richard Nixon announced his resignation from the presidency, however, Congress passed legislation which blocked large-scale contributions. The 1974 Bill limited individual donations to \$1,000 (£625) a candidate, restricted spending in congressional races, and created the Federal Election Commission.

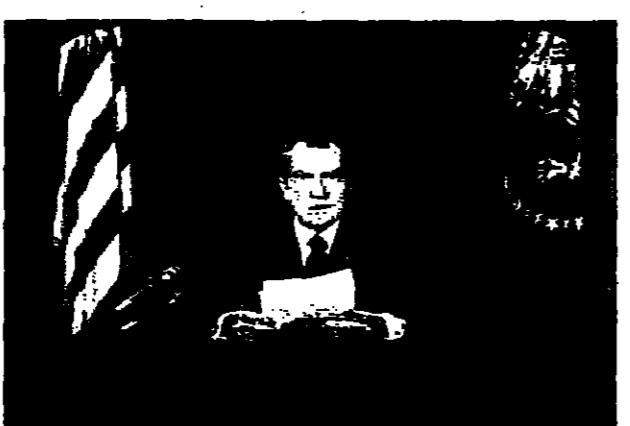
Two years later the Su-

preme Court ruled the spending limits to be violations of free-speech rights, leading to an explosion of political action committees that now spend millions of dollars promoting candidates.

Loopholes provided ambitious politicians with an easy means of seeking unregulated donations of "soft money". Contributions now central to the investigation into irregular fundraising for President Clinton's re-election last year.

The dual legacy of Watergate remains both a mistrust of government and the inability of America's politicians to effect serious campaign finance reform. But in the capital yesterday the event took a theatrical turn when the Watergate Hotel hosted a "Break-in Party" featuring waiters dressed as Secret Service agents and copies of the *Washington Post* articles about the crime.

Paul Leeper, one of the police officers who arrested the burglars at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee, was joined



President Nixon announces his resignation in 1974



Carl Bernstein, left, and Robert Woodward, Washington Post journalists who uncovered the Watergate scandal

at the hotel by Patrick Butters, a Nixon impersonator. The official anniversary today will be marked in Room 723 at the Premier Hotel across the road, the look-out post for the five burglars. For six months the room has been refurbished with various memorabilia, including the wigs used by the

four men, their walkie-talkies

and a copy of the President's

resignation letter.

Gordon Liddy, the former White House adviser turned talkshow host, will broadcast his show from the Premier in what he promises

will be a no-holds-barred ac-

count of what took place when

his accomplices broke into the Watergate building.

For aficionados the most

burning question still remains

the identity of Deep Throat, the shadowy figure who leaked information to Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the two *Washington Post* reporters who broke the

story. The duo have said they

will only reveal their source

when he dies.

Their former editor, Ben

Woodward, said: "I took

Bob Woodward for a walk in

McPherson Square and said,

"It's time that I have the name"

and he gave it to me ... I've

never told a soul."

Plan for slavery apology attacked

By TOM RHODES

PRESIDENT Clinton was criticised yesterday for considering making an official apology to black Americans for slavery.

A bipartisan group in Congress is urging Mr Clinton to make the statement as part of his year-long programme to bridge the racial divide in the United States.

Stopping just short of making a commitment to the move, the President said: "Surely every American knows that slavery was wrong and that we paid a terrible price for it, and that we have to keep repairing that."

But Trent Lott, the leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, said he would probably oppose such an apology if it ever came to a vote. Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, said: "We can go back and have all sorts of apologies. But will one more child read because of it?"

Ward Connerly, the black businessman who championed Proposition 209, anti-affirmative action legislation in California, said: "Apologising for slavery is probably one of the dumbest things anyone could do."

Epidemic brings call to ease Cuba ban

By DAVID ADAMS
LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

POLITICIANS and health experts in the United States are preparing to unveil a new challenge to the American trade embargo against Cuba, arguing that it has severely undermined health conditions on the Communist island.

Tomorrow a bipartisan coalition in the US Congress is due to announce the introduction of the Cuban Humanitarian Trade Act, which seeks to end restrictions on the sale of food and medicine to Cuba. It comes amid reports of a viral epidemic in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba.

The Bill has attracted surprising support among Republicans, who have traditionally backed efforts to tighten the economic noose on Cuba. "How can a great nation like the US target Cuba's civilians by denying them necessary medicine?" asked Malcolm Wallop, a former Republican senator lobbying for the Bill.

Supporters of the Bill say Cuba's health system was one of the world's most effective until a series of US measures to tighten the embargo were adopted by Congress in the last five years.

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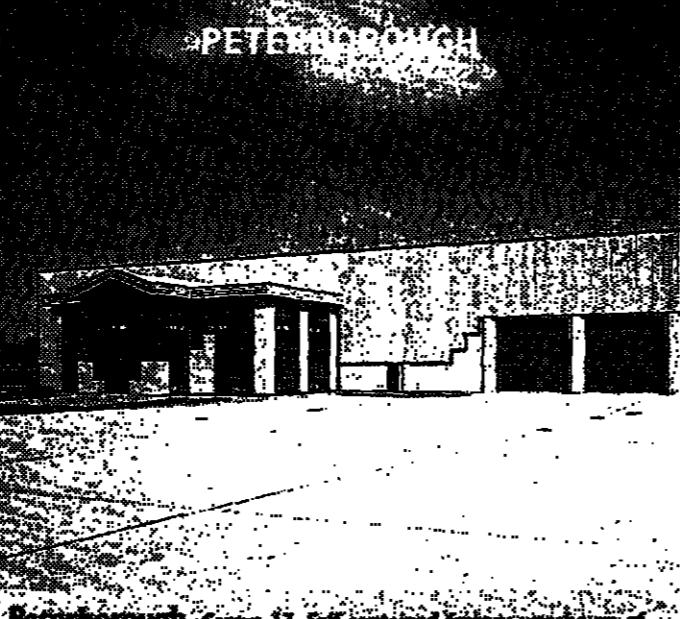
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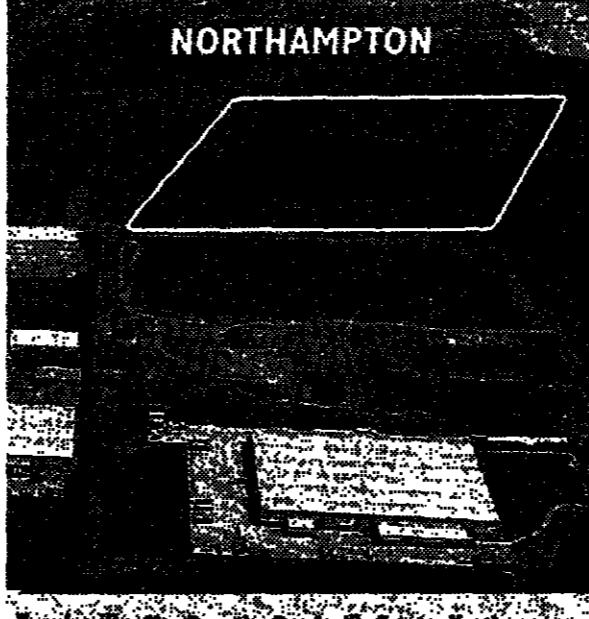
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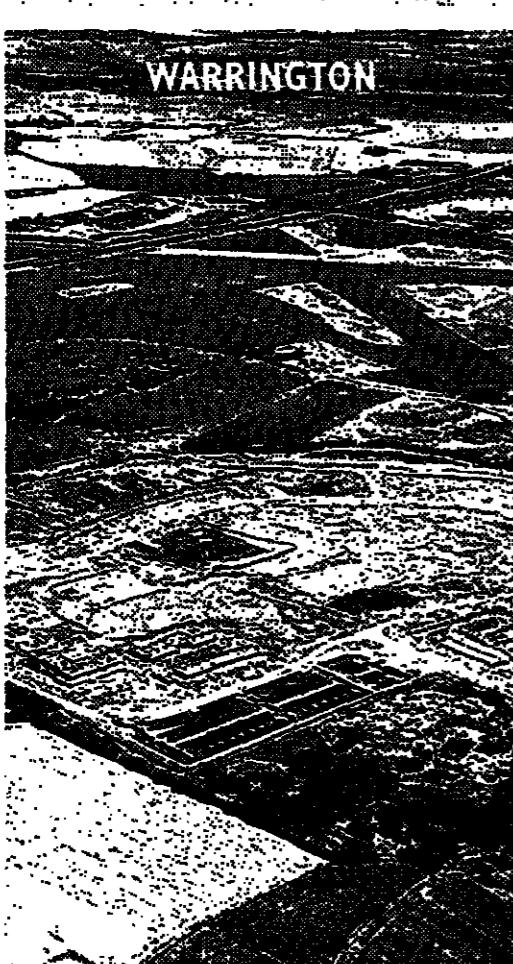
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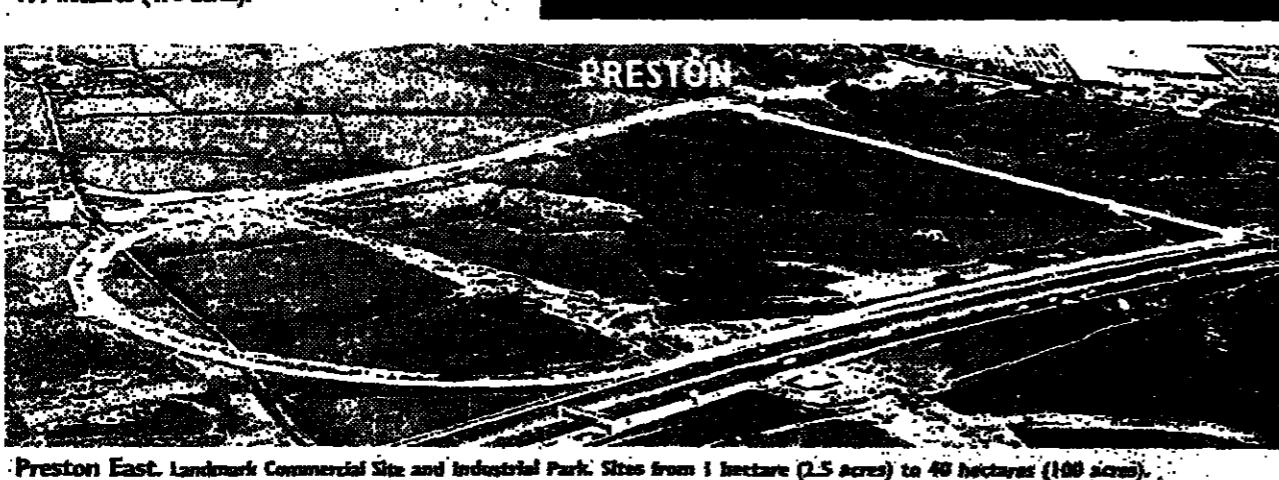


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Turncoats 'hope to take Pol Pot alive within days'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

BREAKAWAY Khmer Rouge fighters were yesterday closing in on their former leader, Pol Pot, hoping to capture him alive in the next few days. Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the Cambodian First Co-Prime Minister, said:

The Khmer Rouge rebels, now allied to the Government, are pursuing their ailing former "Brother Number One" in heavily forested northern Cambodia. If captured, he would be handed over to an international tribunal for judgment, Prince Ranariddh said. Under Pol Pot's rule in the 1970s, one million Cambodians were executed or died of hunger and disease.

The Prince said his new Khmer Rouge allies had intercepted a convoy of ten lorries heading for the Thai border. Six senior Khmer Rouge officials wishing to discuss surrender with the Government in Phnom Penh were freed, but four lorries of Khmer Rouge members escaped. The four vehicles were carrying Pol Pot and would-be peace-makers — Khiem Samphan, a Khmer Rouge leader, and Nuon Chea, "Brother Number Two". Prince Ranariddh said: "Pol Pot does not want Khiem Samphan to surrender."

About 95 per cent of Pol Pot's hardline faction had broken with their leader and

would announce tomorrow their intention to join the Cambodian armed forces, the Prince said. It is the real end of the Khmer Rouge and is good for peace in Asia," he added.

However, Hun Sen, the Second Co-Prime Minister, whose formerly Communist Cambodian People's Party shares power with Prince Ranariddh's royalist grouping, Funcinpec, demanded the arrest of Khmer Rouge leaders and said that anyone negotiating with them was breaking the law.

"The Khmer Rouge have died militarily but now some people want to bring them back to life politically," Hun Sen said. "I will accuse anyone who helps the Khmer Rouge or brings them to Phnom Penh of breaking the law."

Prince Ranariddh, speaking at a school opening just out-

side Phnom Penh, said Khiem Samphan had told his aides that Christopher Howes, the British mine-clearance expert captured at Angkor Wat in 1995, was with a Khmer Rouge official named "Sarouen" in Pol Pot's entourage. There was no independent confirmation of this.

"Pol Pot, dead or alive, has been set up as the scapegoat for all the other surviving Khmer Rouge leaders who will now be joining Ranariddh's side in opposition to Hun Sen," one diplomat said.

Under Prince Ranariddh's plans, the Khmer Rouge will not have disappeared: so-called moderate leaders such as Khiem Samphan, who wrote the blueprint for the murderous agrarian revolution that emptied the cities, will be permitted to form a new party.

Moreover, analysts believe it is unlikely that Pol Pot will ever stand trial. Most leading politicians are either former Khmer Rouge themselves, like Hun Sen, or have co-operated with them, as Prince Ranariddh did in the 1980s.

The mutual hostility between the Prince and Hun Sen, both of whom have hundreds of bodyguards, has given rise to fears of a new civil war in the run-up to elections next year.



Plea to Blair on Aborigines

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

CHURCH and human rights groups have launched a twin-pronged attack on the Australian Prime Minister's policy on Aborigines by booking a full-page advertisement to appear in *The Times*, and sending a letter to the newspaper's Editor.

John Howard, who arrives in London tomorrow for talks with Tony Blair, will face criticism about his failure to give a formal apology to the so-called stolen children and his attitude to Aboriginal land rights.

The full-page advertisement, which has been finan-

ced by a group calling itself Australians for Native Title, will call for British support in the struggle to gain justice for Aborigines.

The open letter also asks Mr Blair to raise the native title issue when he meets Mr Howard and demand a national apology to the thousands of Aboriginal children who were forcibly taken from their families earlier this century.

Mr Howard labelled the proposed advertisement a "stunt", shortly before leaving for London last night. He said the cost would have been

Letters, page 23

better spent on relief for indigenous and disadvantaged Australians. He insisted in a radio interview that he could not "imagine an American President or a British Prime Minister presuming to give me advice on Australian affairs".

The authors of the letter to *The Times* argue that native title is a human rights issue and therefore falls within Mr Blair's election pledge to focus on human rights in foreign policy.

According to reports, those arrested are connected with the novel *Wrath of Heaven*, a thinly disguised account of an anti-corruption official's uphill battle to solve the murder or suicide of Beijing's Deputy Mayor. This is a direct reference to the alleged suicide in 1995 of Wang Baosen, Beijing's Deputy Mayor, a close associate of Chen Xifung, one of seven

Symbol of the colonial era packed away

Old hand is new envoy to Beijing

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE appointment of a new Ambassador to Beijing was announced by the Foreign Office yesterday, two weeks before Hong Kong is to be handed over to China.

Tony Galsworthy, who is a former senior representative of the Joint Liaison Group in Hong Kong, will take over as ambassador in December. He replaces Sir Len Appleyard, who is retiring.

Mr Galsworthy, 52, will succeed as ambassador at a sensitive period in relations with China. Hong Kong will have been in Chinese hands for five months when he moves into the embassy in Beijing, and Britain and the international community will be watching to see how China's policy of "one country, two systems" is working.

Only this week, the Foreign Office condemned the laws approved by the Beijing-appointed Provisional Legislative Council to curb civil liberties in Hong Kong.

After July 1, Britain's main diplomatic representatives in China will consist of the Ambassador in Beijing, a Consul-General in Hong Kong, a new post yet to be filled and, until the turn of the century, the senior representative of the Joint Liaison Group. This group is to stay in existence until 2000 to monitor the implementation of the Declaration on Hong Kong.

Theoretically, the Consul-General will come under the aegis of the Ambassador in Beijing. But since Hong Kong is to remain a separate political entity within China, he or she will retain a degree of independence to reflect the fact that Hong Kong will enjoy a large degree of autonomy. At present Britain has a Trade Commissioner in Hong Kong, whose role and status will be superseded by the appointment of the Consul-General.

Mr Galsworthy is well known to Beijing. He was senior representative of the Joint Liaison Group from 1989 to 1993, after the massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in 1989.



The Queen's portrait is removed at the Prince of Wales barracks in Hong Kong

Beijing arrests six over banned thriller

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

SIX people linked to a novel about Beijing's greatest corruption scandal of the decade, which brushed close to the family of Deng Xiaoping, the late senior leader, have been detained in an act recalling the jailing and death of a playwright in Mao's day who criticised the Chairman.

According to reports, those arrested are connected with the novel *Wrath of Heaven*, a thinly disguised account of an anti-corruption official's uphill battle to solve the murder or suicide of Beijing's Deputy Mayor. This is a direct reference to the alleged suicide in 1995 of Wang Baosen, Beijing's Deputy Mayor, a close associate of Chen Xifung, one of seven

members of the Politburo Standing Committee, China's ruling body. Mr Chen, portrayed in official biographies as cultured and honest, was a Deng protégé and Beijing's Mayor during the Tiananmen killings. Soon after Wang's death, Mr Chen was arrested and Beijing hummed with rumours that he and Wang had shared a mistress who had been present when Wang shot himself or was murdered in the hills near the capital. The woman disappeared.

A Beijing newspaper alleged Mr Chen "had an unshirkable responsibility for the Wang Baosen case". This involved the greatest embezzlement case since the party came to power, estimated at £200 million, which toppled Zhou Guanwu, director of Beijing's largest steel complex and an old army comrade of Deng. The author, Chen Fang, is unknown.

Much of this is touched on in *Wrath of Heaven*, which has been banned for several months. The original plates were seized but the novel has had a wide pirated sale. The whereabouts of the author, Chen Fang, are unknown.

In 1965, the opening shot in the Cultural Revolution was the criticism of *Hai Rui Defies the Emperor*, a play set in the 17th century which alluded to the purge of one of Mao's comrades. Its author, Wu Han, a Deputy Mayor of Beijing, was arrested in 1966 and died in jail three years later.

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Deal to tighten net around quota hoppers likely to disappoint British

NEW measures to tackle the problem of Spanish fishermen buying up British fish quotas are expected to be unveiled today after months of wrangling (Philip Webster and Michael Hornby write).

The moves, falling far short of what British fishing organisations have been demanding, are likely to make it compulsory that foreign vessels land at least half their catch at British ports, with tighter

FISHING

registration requirements on boat and crew nationality.

Quota hoppers are foreign companies which buy up British fishing licences and then register their trawlers in Britain, so entitling them to take a share of the fish catch allocated to the British fleet. There are about 160 operat-

ing at present. There was never any serious prospect of altering current European Union rules to stop foreign-owned trawlers buying up unwanted British fishing licences and taking a share of the catch.

Britain hopes that the new measures will make quota hopping less attractive to overseas owners. Spain was still opposing parts of the deal last night but

Britain was confident that its objections would be overruled.

After talks yesterday in Amsterdam between Jacques Santer, the Commission President, and Tony Blair, the Commission will make a declaration today on a deal that will involve "economic linkage with clear benefits to Britain" from Spanish or other foreign boats fishing in UK waters. The benefits would include a British contingent

in the crew of the vessels, and the requirement that a big proportion of the catch be landed in Britain.

The matter is being dealt with through a declaration rather than the new European treaty for fear that the Spanish might have attempted to veto it.

The other key element of the deal is that the Commission will be responsible for enforcing quota controls in Spain or other coun-

tries taking advantage of the UK quotas, with full protection guaranteed for Britain's 12-mile fishing limit.

Fishermen's leaders said last night they feared the deal would have little economic impact, would be hard to enforce and would fail to stop foreign-owned vessels regis-

tering in Britain.

The deal, as reported from Amsterdam, comes nowhere near

what fishermen had wanted, which was the removal of existing foreign-owned vessels from the British register and a change to the Treaty of Rome that would allow Britain to ban quota hopping.

Barrie Deas, the chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said: "As far as we can see, the deal is pretty much what the European Commission offered a year ago."

Jobs pact buries Franco-German monetary row



Charles Bremner reports on the latest in a long tradition of summit compromises that have kept the EU on the rails

THE Germans, French and British were claiming victory yesterday after European Union leaders agreed to a compromise that buries the Franco-German quarrel over the future euro with a deal that enshrines employment as a top priority but leaves intact Germany's cherished pact for enforcing monetary rigour.

The end of a week-long Franco-German rift over the so-called stability pact brought relief at the Amsterdam summit. However, there was awareness that little had been done to resolve the clash between the German demand for a single currency driven by fiscal discipline and the French desire, shared by some other EU states, to soften monetary rules to promote economic growth.

The jobs compromise creates a resolution on growth and employment that, among other things, approves the use of limited funds by the European Investment Bank to promote small and medium industry and high technology, on a commercial basis. A special "unemployment summit" is to be held in Luxembourg in September. Twinned with the special growth resolution is the inclusion of an "employment chapter" in the new Union treaty, which commits member states to submitting growth and job-creating policies for collective review.

Germany, which long argued that employment policies were the exclusive responsibility of national governments, softened its opposition to the idea last week in order to appease Lionel Jospin, the

new French Prime Minister. Yesterday's accord cleared the way for leaders to finish the revamped Maastricht treaty. The terms of the deal enabled the Germans to claim that they had prevailed in their insistence that no a comma should be changed in the stability pact.

"The pact is on a safe road," Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, said after the leaders endorsed the compromise and also agreed to a

The accord clears the way to finish a revamped Maastricht treaty

new exchange-rate mechanism that will apply to currencies outside the zone of the future euro after 1999.

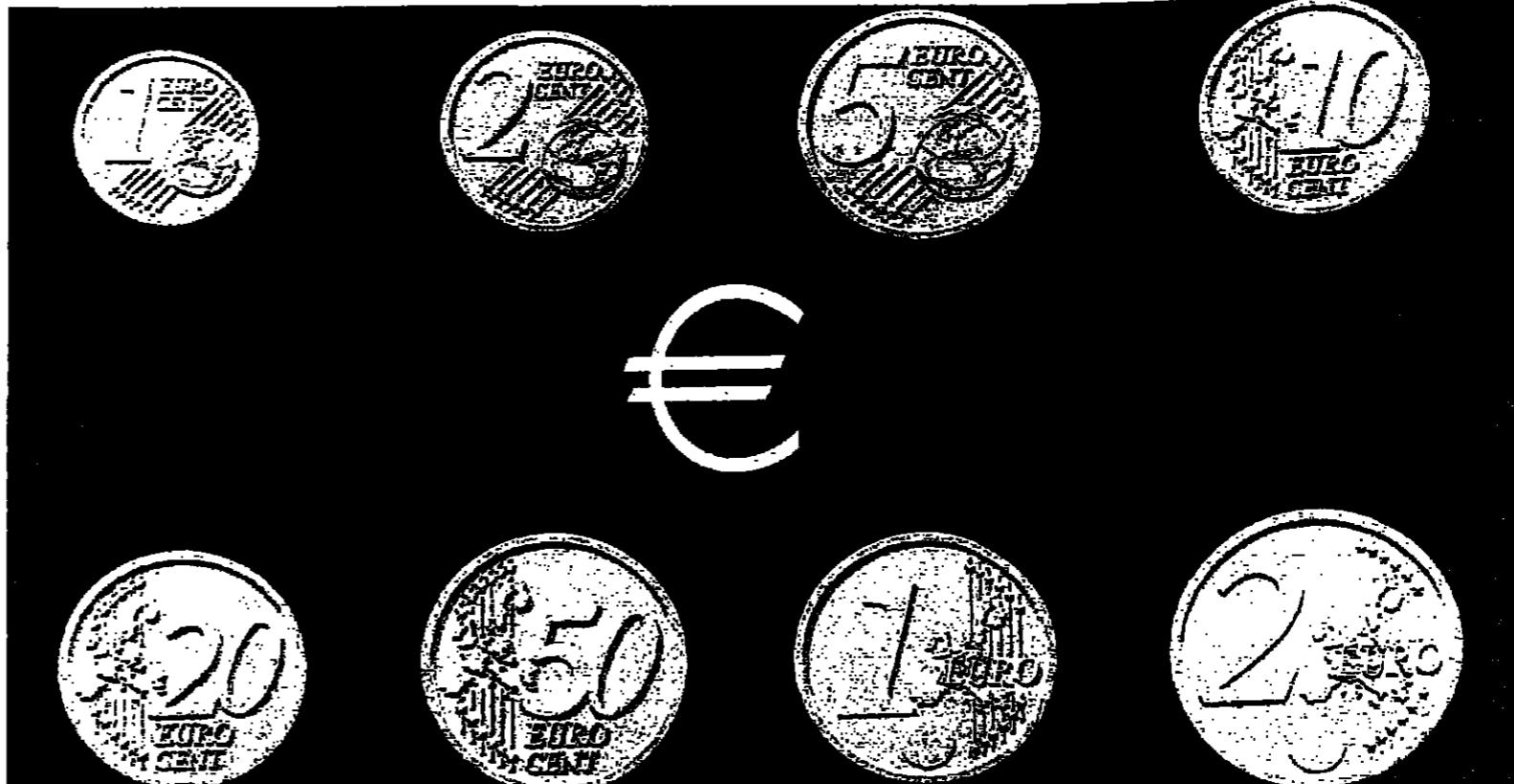
On the British side, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, was exuding satisfaction over the way in which the compromise accord laid emphasis on British priorities of fostering adaptable labour markets. "It strikes a fair balance between

efficient co-operation and the realisation that principle responsibility for employment rests with member states," a British official said.

For the French, M Jospin was able to argue that his show of force over the past week had concentrated the EU's collective mind, putting the need for jobs alongside the drive for fiscal rigour. "This is a significant step forward for France," said M Jospin's spokesman.

The French depicted the deal as fulfilling M Jospin's demand for an "economic pole" to balance the future European Central Bank in the administration of the future currency. President Chirac, who had been accused by M Jospin of allowing the Germans to steamroll him into agreeing the original pact last December, also hailed the accord as good for France. M Jospin's staff, busy scoring points against the presidential team, argued that the Socialist had achieved what the Gaullist had failed. The presidential side said M Jospin had failed to win any real German concession since Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, had vetoed the call for heavy spending on job-making infrastructure projects.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 22



The eight euro coins displayed in Amsterdam. They were chosen for easy recognition after the EU rejected a British-style 50p shape

All change as future currency is rolled out

BY CHARLES BREMNER

STREAMLINED, go-ahead and dynamic. This is the image of Europe officially conveyed on the coins of a future euro currency, unveiled amid some confusion in an Amsterdam theatre yesterday.

The designs, produced by Luc Luyckx of Belgium, either show Europe's place on the globe or an outline of the European map. But with their slanting letters and numbers, they offer a sense of Europe's motion towards the future, Mr Luyckx said. This nod to all those Euro-metaphors about rushing trains and locomotives that Britain might miss is enhanced by the inclusion of six decorative lines joining the 12 European stars and bearing more than a passing resemblance to a set of guitar strings.

Presenting the coins in the cavern-

ous red plush interior of the Carré theatre, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Commissioner for Monetary Affairs, emphasised the unanimous favour which the designs had found in a poll of public opinion, carried out in all member states. "They liked the sense that they convey the modernity of the European Union," he said.

There was little modern about the unveiling, which consisted of M de Silguy turning round the faces of giant lollipop sticks under the vast gold columned proscenium arch of the theatre as a serum of photographers scrambled for pictures.

All eight coins are round except for the 20-cent piece which has a "Spanish flower shape". Chosen for easy recognition after the EU rejected the

British-style 50p shape, this consists of a near circle with eight small indentations. Mr Luyckx's designs for the coins, ranging from one euro cent to two euros, seek to avoid the offence given to Greece, Spain and other maritime nations by the euro notes, issued last December. Where those forgot to include whole sets of islands, the EU promises in advance that on the coins "the map of Europe will be modified to ensure that all member states are happy". This was not enough for the Greeks. Unlike the notes, the coins do not bear the word euro or cents in Greek script.

The Greeks were reassured that, if their country ever qualified for the currency, they would have their letters on one side because this is reserved for a national design. In Britain's case, this means if London decided to opt into the euro, the monarch's head

would remain, with the dynamic map and stars featuring on the tails side.

Introducing the currency on the target date of January 1, 2002, presents a monumental job for Europe's mints, banks and makers of vending machines. More than 70 billion coins are now in circulation in the Union. Making enough coins for euro founders will take four years.

The offering from Mr Luyckx, 34, who designs coins for the Belgian Royal Mint, was one of 36 produced by teams of designers from all EU states except Denmark. Only one dispute troubled the technical development. Sweden insisted that nickel alloy not be used because it can cause allergy. The argument faded after Sweden announced that it would stay out. The Belgian designer wins 24,000 euros — equivalent to £17,000 — as a prize.

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EU told to scrap obsessions and listen to public

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR
IN AMSTERDAM

TONY BLAIR yesterday called on the European Union to set its sights on a future beyond Amsterdam in which it would concentrate on the things which mattered to the people rather than the matters that obsessed its leaders.

As street protesters again laid siege to the EU summit here, complaining that Europe had failed over unemployment, the Prime Minister said that the EU had to close the gulf between the public and its governments. "We cannot deny that there is deep disquiet over the way Europe has been running its affairs," he told heads of government. "When Amsterdam is behind us, we have to address the people's priorities."

Mr Blair's remarks reflected his impatience to move away from Europe's current preoccupation with arcane institutional matters such as "flexibility" and qualified majority voting.

Demonstrators from the Left and Right have staged protests over the past few days over Europe's 18 million unemployed. Mr Blair, in his address to the summit yesterday, welcomed the new focus it had given to jobs and said

that it bode well for the Europe that the Union should be trying to create after Amsterdam.

The key to job creation was employability, education, skills, technology and flexible labour markets. He and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, spoke out against big injections of EU cash on "supposed" job creation schemes. He added that while there should be more effective co-operation between member states on employment, including the exchanging of best practices, the primary responsibility for employment policy must rest with individual governments. "For my part, it is vital we focus on the importance of skilled workforce and labour markets responsive to economic change," he said.

Mr Blair said the two most important tasks for his Government were raising education standards and reforming the welfare state. That would apply, irrespective of the debate on the single currency. Although he was glad that jobs were at the top of the agenda, there must be no "fudging" of the single currency convergence criteria.



Tony Blair at the Amsterdam summit yesterday

Tudjman keeps power in flawed poll

BY TOM WALKER

FRANJO TUDJMAN, who led Croatia to independence from the ruins of Yugoslavia, was yesterday confirmed as President for a second term. With 90 per cent of the vote counted, he had won 61 per cent. His nearest rival, the Social Democrat Zdravko Tomac, gained just 21 per cent.

The turnout was 57 per cent, reflecting the apathy felt by many Croats towards the monolithic powers of Mr Tudjman, a former Titov general turned historian.

The 75-year-old, jumping on

to a table to avoid flag-waving youths, toasted his victory at a

party on the banks of the Sava River, promising a "rich and democratic" future for his nation.

There were few surprises along the campaign trail. Mr Tudjman's Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) is more a national movement than a political party, and the white-haired leader is revered as the father of the nation, the man who united Croatia after centuries of struggle.

Mr Tudjman, more than any other Croat, has articulated the feeling that his 4.7 million people are a bulwark between East and West, the last patch of civilised Christianity before the Balkan

maelstrom begins. It is a philosophy that has won him few friends outside Croatia.

Mr Tomac said the result was a "catastrophe", and blamed the state-controlled media for deliberately down-playing the election.

Voter turnout was particularly low in eastern Slavonia, the UN-protected enclave where 140,000 Serbs still live. In many instances those that did wish to vote found they did not exist on the register.

The ugliness of the Croatian state showed, too, when Vlado Gotovac, the candidate of the Social Liberal Party, was attacked by a deranged Croatian Army captain shouting out

Second World War fascist slogans.

The next general elections are scheduled for 1999, when the Opposition hopes that free market reformers can open up the centre ground of Crustian politics.

□ Zagreb: International election observers said yesterday the Croatian presidential election was free but not fair. "While candidates were able to speak freely, the process leading up to the election was fundamentally flawed," according to Paul Simon, special coordinator for the observer mission of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. (Reuters)

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The young doctor with an old woman's disease

At 19, Anna Peckham discovered that years of anorexia had left her with osteoporosis. Heidi Kingstone reports

She determination often sets anorexics apart. At the onset of their illness, it is what drives them to resist the constant craving for food; but it is also what gives them the strength to recover the willpower needed to defeat the overwhelming desire not to eat. Anorexics are often bright and tenacious characters — high achievers, perfectionists — and Anna Peckham fits that description perfectly. Now 26, she has recently qualified as a doctor. But at 19, as a result of her long struggle with anorexia, she had gone through the menopause, developed osteoporosis and lost two inches in height.

At 15, Anna stood 5ft 11½in tall and weighed 10st 7lb. Preparing for the summer holidays, she decided to shed some weight. It was the beginning of a terrifying descent. At 18, her weight had dropped to less than 5st, and at her lowest point, she weighed just over 5st. By the time she was 19, Anna, no longer towered over her three younger sisters, and her once perfectly proportioned body was squat from neck to waist.

And the cost was not just physical. For two years, while her contemporaries were studying for their GCSEs, Anna was ricocheting between High Wycombe high school and a hospital psychiatric ward.

At school, acquaintances would comment on her thinness, and close friends talked to Anna of their concern. But as she walked down the school corridors, her trademark scarf wrapped around her neck, the hardworking teenager thought she looked pretty good. Anna liked herself long and lean. It was a portrait by a classmate that finally brought home what was happening to her: a stick person drawing, scarf included, with the word "Anna-rex" scrawled underneath. "I thought 'If that's what they think of me, then perhaps I am fooling myself.'"

The dieting that had started quite innocently was out of control. About five months after Anna first began her diet, her mother insisted that she see a doctor, after discovering that her

daughter's periods had ceased. By then Anna weighed 9st 7lb, but she assured her mother that she was absolutely fine, blaming the stress of exams and schoolwork. Her mother insisted, however, and at their GP's recommendation, Anna began to see a psychiatrist.

At home, the arguments over food intensified. Anna's eating patterns were scrutinised. Hungry and cold, surviving on a diet of apples and black coffee, she continued to lose weight. Aged 12, Anna had decided that she would become a doctor. But at 18, the future looked bleak. Weak and skeletal, she was banned from school.

By then, she had spent seven months in an adolescent psychiatric ward. There, she had been put on a high-calorie diet, combined with bed rest, to encourage rapid weight gain. The rewards for eating would be freedom and a return to school. In those seven months she gained 3st. But confined to the ward, she also learnt the tricks of a serious anorexic — laxatives, vomiting.

"After that first hospital stay, I thought I would be cured. But as soon as I left, the weight started to fall off. In hospital I had to make progress, because what I ate was controlled by the staff. Outside, the control was mine. I had spent months being practically force-fed, and I had no idea how much I should be eating."

As Anna was to discover, recovery from anorexia is a slow, painful process. "I found it hard, because I thought 'Everyone is watching me, watching how much I'm eating, if I'm putting on weight or not.'

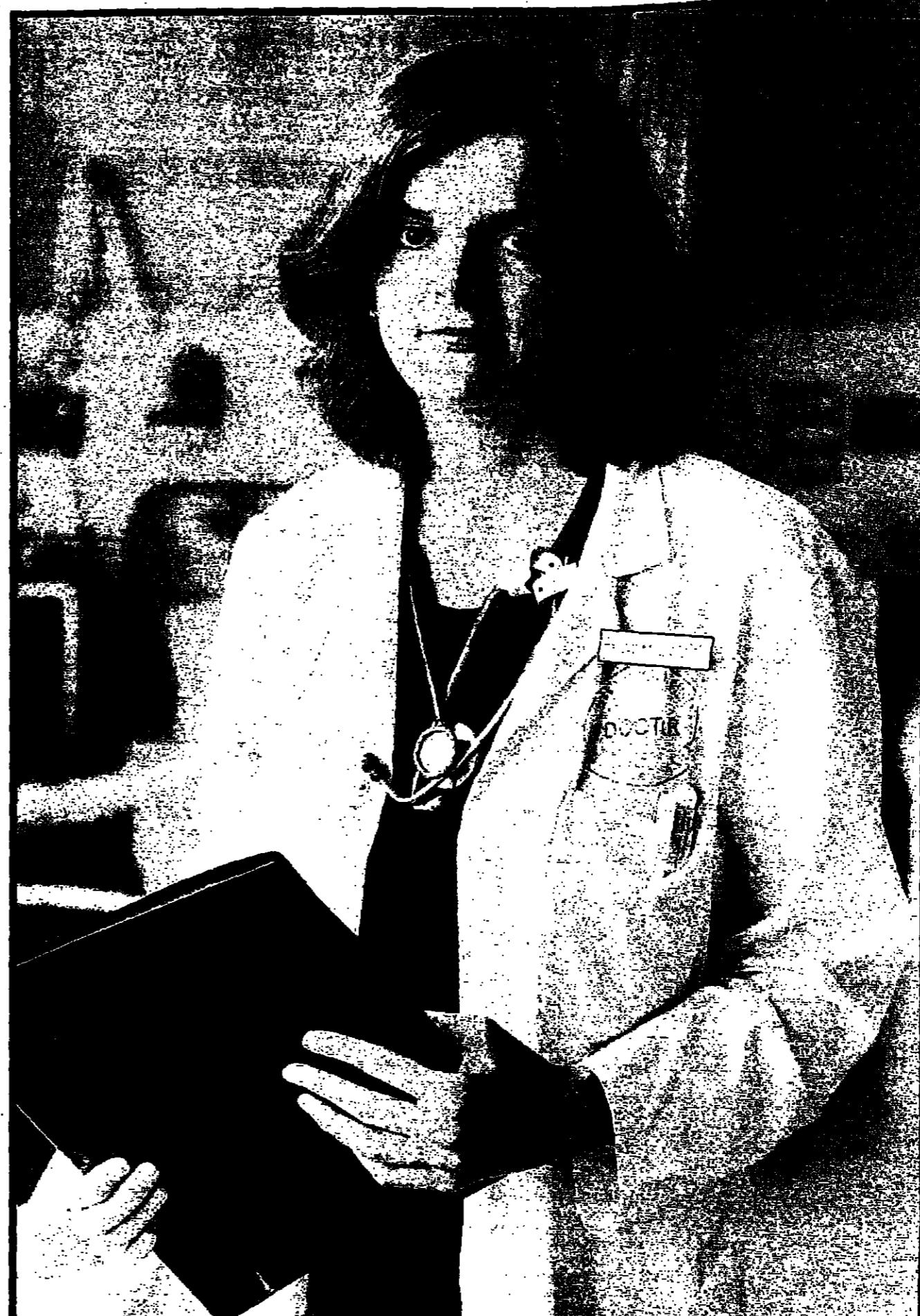
"I got so weak that I didn't have the strength to carry my textbooks. Getting up from the chair took a lot of thought and effort. I knew I was very ill at this stage, but I also knew I was too ill to do anything about it. I realised that this was as low as I could go."

"Then someone reported that they had seen me stumble at the top of the stairs and nearly faint. I raged that it wasn't true, although I knew that it was. The headmistress banned me and I was told that I couldn't return until I

me. In hospital I had to make progress, because what I ate was controlled by the staff. Outside, the control was mine. I had spent months being practically force-fed, and I had no idea how much I should be eating."

Now a healthy 10st 7lb, she has just returned from cycling around Ireland, and in August, she will start a six-month stint in the psychiatric unit of Liverpool's North Mersey Community NHS Trust. "One of the areas I might like to specialise in is psychiatry," she says, "because I think I could bring something special with me."

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"I knew I was very ill, but I also knew I was too ill to do anything about it. I realised that this was as low as I could go"

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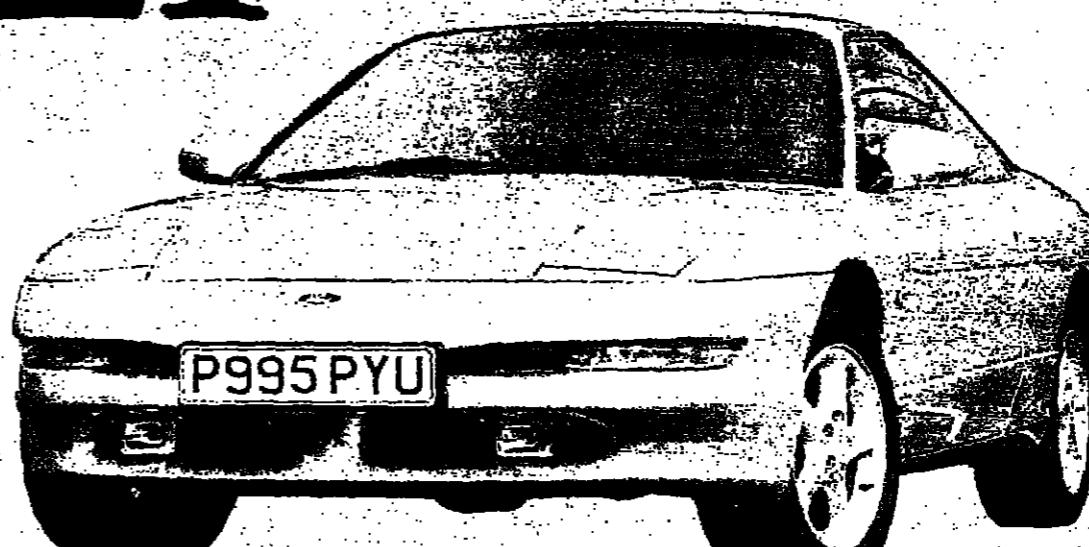
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FORD announces a four-year investment totalling £100 million. • The first test-tube baby is born: Louise Brown of Oldham, Lancs. • First world disco dancing championships held. • Pensioner Alan Freeman still trying to persuade the Inland Revenue his solar powered, 4mph car should not be taxed.

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High risks for high rollers

A new, sophisticated and, many claim, more exciting form of gambling has emerged from the City dealing rooms. Jason Cowley investigates

The British have always loved a flutter and the glorious sporting week of Royal Ascot and the Lord's Test match is traditionally one in which vast sums of money are spent on bets. This year, though, not all of it will be passed over the counter in the smoke-filled atmosphere of the local bookmakers. For a new, more sophisticated form of gambling has emerged — especially among the affluent young, for whom spread betting offers a charge of excitement that conventional betting cannot match.

Perhaps the most remarkable recent manifestation of spread betting came on the night of the general election. When thousands of people across the country picked up the phone and started gambling on the scale of the Government's humiliation.

The leading spread-betting firms had experienced hectic nights before, notably during England's agonised Euro 96 semi-final against Germany, but nothing prepared them for what happened on election night. Throughout that night and into the early hours of the following morning, as Labour's triumph turned the election map of Britain from blue to red, the offices of IG Index and its main rival, City Index, recalled. City dealing rooms at their most frenetic: phone lines were jammed, computers froze through information overload, and market makers frantically revised positions in response to each new Labour gain.

"What happened was phenomenal: we were literally taking thousands of bets," says Ian Jenkins of IG Index, the pioneering spread-betting firm established in 1976. "The office was as busy as any City trading room can get. It was like a mini Black Wednesday."

What happened on election night would have been unthinkable a decade ago. For spread betting, once one of the

best-kept secrets in the City, is the fastest-growing form of gambling in the country. Part of the attraction of spread betting is its flexibility: from the end of a telephone line you can bet on almost anything from the closing position of the FTSE-100 on a particular date to the finishing position of Persian Punch, the favourite for the Ascot Gold Cup on Thursday, or the number of corners in a football match. And unlike traditional bookmakers, who refuse to take bets once an event has started, a spread bet can be continually updated. There is an edge of danger, too; unlike fixed-odds betting, there is no limit to the extent of potential winnings or losses.

Bets are placed by telephone and on account with one of the specialist companies — IG, City, Sporting Index — or with the national bookmakers that have opened specialist divisions in the past two years. The industry is regulated by the Securities and Investment Board and has similarities with futures

trading, where prices are perpetually changing to reflect market fluctuations. Spread bets, unlike traditional investments, are exempt from income tax and capital gains tax.

Graham Sharpe of William Hill explains how the concept works: "It is simple enough: the market maker (or bookmaker) quotes you a position or 'spread' on the outcome of a future issue or event, such as the number of seats Labour will win, or how many goals Alan Shearer will score next season. So the position for Shearer might be offered as a spread of, say, 24 to 28 goals." The punter then backs his judgement against that of the market maker by deciding on which side of the position to bet and at what stake. The difference between the two ends of the position — 24-28 — is the spread.

Spread betting has long been popular in the City, where brokers once grabbed



Vast amounts of money are traditionally spent on betting at Ascot but gamblers are expected to be even more active this year as the public's fascination with spread betting increases

privately on the price of soya beans or pork bellies. "Spread betting is nothing more complicated than speculation using futures contracts," says Ian Jenkins of IG Index. "We launched in the Seventies when we devised a way of buying and selling the price of gold without actually holding it. In the Eighties, as indices became more important, we introduced spread betting on the movements on the FTSE, the Nikkei and Dow Jones. The market really took off with the growth of sport spread betting in the early Nineties."

Michael Paterson, a former stockbroker-turned-restaurateur, profits to the tune of £25,000 a year from spread betting. He is attracted by the flexibility of the system and the fact that, unlike the traditional fixed-odd bet, he is not locked into a position. He can recast or "close down" a bet depending on circumstances and on whether he wishes to maximise profits or minimise losses. He says, "The smart player gets in and out of the market at the right time. So,

for example, if I am bullish on the September position at, say, £4,600, and it rises to £4,700 in August, where I find the risk-reward ratio less attractive, I can sell at a profit before the maturity of the contract in September. Similarly, I can cut my losses or double up my position if market move against me."

Spread-betting firms have been called "blue chip casinos", but Mr Paterson says there is risk in all aspects of life. "Life is a gamble — the job you do, the house you buy and the way you finance it; even the wife you choose. An honest person recognises this."

Yet spread betting can be a dangerous, consuming hobby because it demands imagination, talent and specialist knowledge to do well. James Willoughby, 25, a racing journalist and combative gambler, converted to spread betting three years ago. He was confident that as a racing insider, he could outwit the market makers in the City. He liked, too, the edge of danger, never knowing how much he might win or lose.

"I knew the discipline had grown up in the City and centred on other sports, such as football and cricket, so I reasoned that they might not be so expert on racing," he says. "What also inspired me

he began dabbling privately among friends, gambling on major sporting events and on forward markets in currencies. He and his friends would set their own spreads and act as their own bookmakers, so profits were necessarily small, restricted by minimum and maximum stakes. In the end, tempted by the prospect of making what he calls "serious money" he opened a couple of accounts.

"I loved the thrill of spread betting, especially the fact that you can close or open a bet at any time, but I never really

made any money from it. The market makers are too canny. I also took a bad hit a couple of years ago when Brian Lara achieved his world record Test score of 375 runs. I had backed him to score under 100."

"I realise now that spread betting is the triumph of the trivial. I have found more sensible ways to invest my money," he opened a couple of accounts.

Mr Markham is not alone in his doubts. Even bookmakers are concerned that the gullible are being drawn in by the glamour and buzz of spread betting without fully

understanding how the concept works. Gamblers Anonymous reports a disturbing rise in spread-betting victims, many of whom have a background in finance.

"The introduction of the National Lottery has turned the country into a nation of gamblers," says a spokesman for Gamblers Anonymous. "And the worrying growth in spread betting appears to reflect this."

He pauses, then continues with a warning: "My advice to any potential spread better is don't do it unless you are already an experienced gambler. The downside is too great."

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WHICH?





■ DESIGN

People in glass houses: British architects plan huge botanical pleasure domes for the millennium



■ PROMS

From dolphin rides to fishermen's tales: children come up with a frigate-full of new sea shanties



■ PROMS

... to help their schools win 500 free tickets to the Junior Prom in the Albert Hall



■ RECORDING

Clifford Curzon's classic recording of Beethoven's *Eroica Variations* is our Building a Library choice

Have our top architects gone hothouse mad? Marcus Binney reports on some giant gardening projects

The glass men cometh, in bulk

There is no stopping Tim Smit on the Eden Project. "It's the horticultural answer to the Taj Mahal or the Sydney Opera House. It will knock your socks off and anyone within 200 miles will have to come and see it," he says.

The project is to build the largest hothouse in the world. 1,000 metres long, snaking around a disused Cornish clay pit near St Austell. The Millennium Commission has offered £37 million and with a further £25 million promised, Smit is close to the £74 million target.

He and his co-founder, Jonathan Ball, have won this massive backing on the strength of the "lost gardens of Heligan", a recreated historic garden, which is attracting 300,000 visitors a year. To be sure of a winning team, they took on all the consultants who worked on the Channel Tunnel terminal at Waterloo, beginning with Nicholas Grimshaw as architect and Anthony Hunt as engineer.

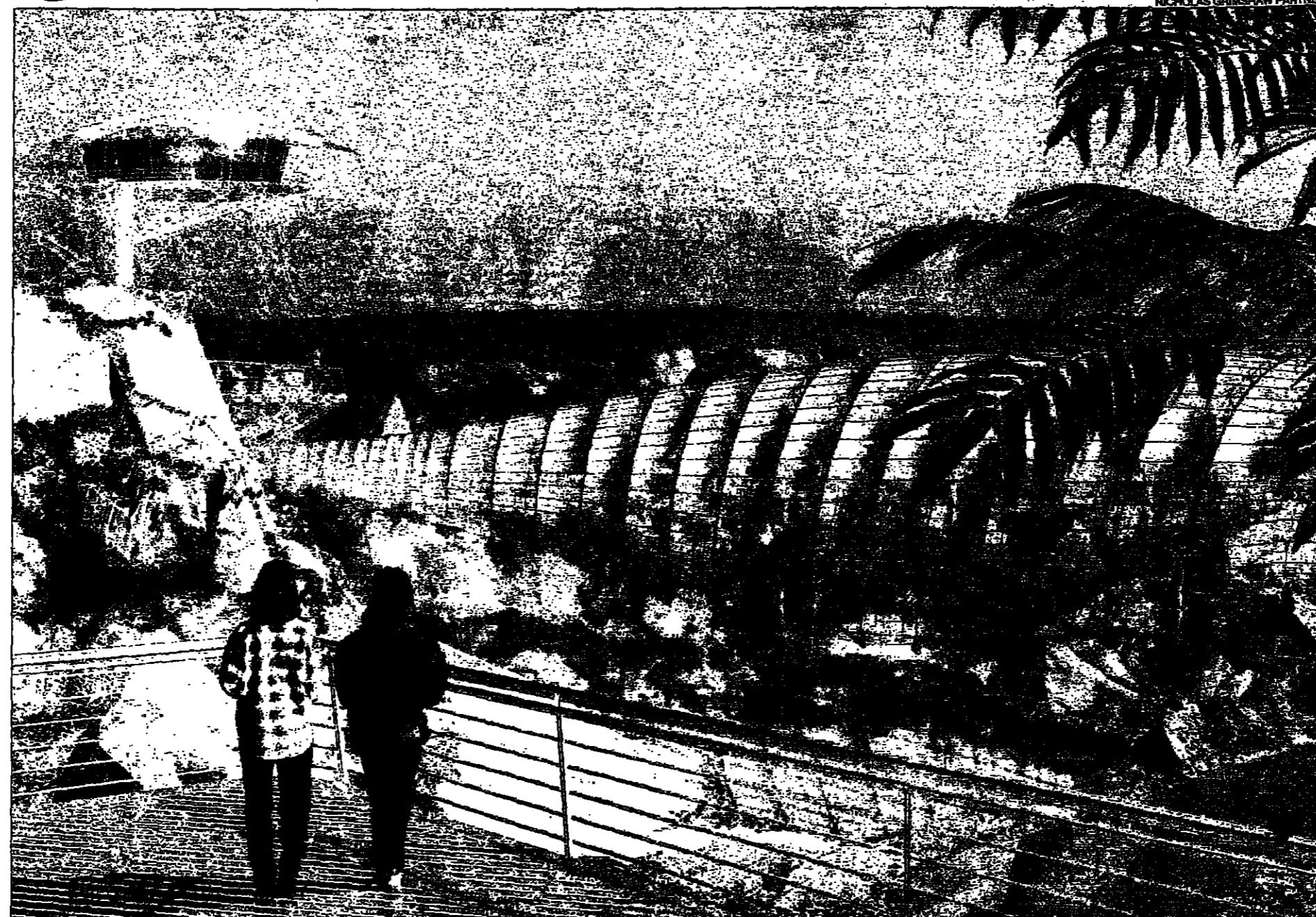
Waterloo's snaking glass roof has been adapted to the more complex contours of the clay pit. Grimshaw explains: "It's positively colonic, narrowing to a defile, then rising to 20ft to accommodate tropical trees."

For the roof, he is exploring a covering of lightweight inflated transparent cushions, which use the sun to operate tiny fans to keep them up. "Our aim is to create the total responsive skin of the 21st century, which will stay warm in winter and never overheat in summer," he says.

Phase one consists of two major "biomes", devoted to the humid tropics and Mediterranean-type climates around the world. These will be planted with more than 10,000 species, varieties and cultivars. Each will be split into three areas: wild Arcadia, primitive agriculture and cornucopia, showing how science transforms cultivation.

"We will be having what we call Day One plants for theatrical effect backed up by a large propagation programme," says Smit. They have purchased a large nursery off site, ensuring that disease problems are spotted in advance.

Disused clay pits suggest a barren moonscape, but Reading University has told Smit that by adding 25 per cent loam-type material they can create a fertile soil. Surprisingly,



The world's largest hothouse? An artist's impression shows the Eden Project, which will glass over an entire Cornish clay pit, creating Mediterranean and tropical climates

in drought-prone Cornwall water is not a problem. "We are 30ft below the water table, and 80 per cent of our water needs will be met by rainwater running off the roof."

Come the millennium the question is whether the proverbial apple will be awarded to Cornwall or to the new National Botanic Garden of Wales, where Sir Norman Foster is designing a rival futuristic glasshouse, looking like a biosphere to nurture life on Mars. It is intended to contain the greatest collection

of Mediterranean flowers and flowering shrubs the world has seen, and bring together flora from parallel climates in Chile, California and Africa.

Professor Charles Sturtton, the director, says: "This will be the most beautifully planned glasshouse in the world, flowering in and out of season."

Middleton Hall, near Carmarthenshire, Hunt, who is once again the engineer, explains: "The surface but are host to 20 per cent of the plant species. A century ago, plant hunters would simply have been sent out into the wild to search for

seeds and specimens. We will work closely with national botanic institutions. We would also seek to grow rare species under licence and sell them to gardeners."

The new botanic garden will be in the grounds of a vanished Georgian mansion.

Middleton Hall, near Carmarthen, Hunt, who is once again the engineer, explains: "The

surface but are host to 20 per cent of the plant species. A century ago, plant hunters would simply have been sent out into the wild to search for

a slice of the outside of a doughnut." The huge expanse of glass poses the risk of scorched leaves, so there will be an elaborate system of automated shades. As well as collecting its own water, the garden will grow fuel for heating in coppices around the estate. Sewage will be recycled through reed beds and run through a willow plantation to leave water clear enough to return to nearby streams. The Millennium Commission is providing £22 million.

With all this happening, Kew could hardly be left behind. So the Royal Botanic Gardens is planning its own £75 million millennium seed

bank at Wakehurst in Sussex, aiming to provide a safe future for 25,000 species of flowering plants, or 10 per cent of the world's flora, as well as all the flowering plants native to the UK. This is based on predictions that a quarter of the world's 250,000 species of flowering plant may become extinct over the next 50 years.

Simon Linington, the manager of Kew's existing small seed bank, explains: "There are major seed banks for staple food crops but none for wild plants. We will begin with the world's dry lands, which are under pressure from overgrazing and overpopulation. We will provide help with problems like seed dormancy. Our existing seed stock list already goes to 100 countries."

Once collected, seeds are dried and kept at temperatures of down to -40C. That allows them to be stored for more than 200 years without losing their regeneration potential. Clearly this is one millennium project designed to last for centuries.

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BEETHOVEN'S EROICA VARIATIONS, OP 35
Reviewed by Misha Donat

In October, 1802 Beethoven offered the publishers Breitkopf und Härtel two sets of piano variations. Both, he assured them, were written "in a wholly new style, and each in an entirely different way."

One of the works was the *Eroica Variations*, so called because Beethoven later used their theme for his Third Symphony as well as for the finale of his ballet music, *The Creatures of Prometheus*.

Beethoven's claim as to the novelty of these variation works was justified. The *Eroica* set has one of the most bizarre beginnings he ever conceived, with just the theme's skeletal bass-line on its own. Not until what is effectively the fourth variation do we get to hear the tune. The opening needs to establish a certain atmosphere of mystery, so it is no good pecking at it the way Glenn Gould does on a reissue from Sony. Much more successful is Gould's fellow Canadian Louis Lortie (Chandos). His is always a very musical performance, but ultimately just a little bland.

The *Variations* have no change of tempo indicated until you reach variation 15. That does not mean there is no scope for flexibility, but to pause between each variation and then set off at a radically different speed, as Claudio Arrau does, is to risk losing sight of the work's large-scale structure.

One pianist who brings out the music's continuity and wit is Alfred Brendel (Philips). Brendel is impressive too, in the slow 14th variation. But no one plays this as beautifully as Artur Schnabel in a reissue of a 1938 recording (Pearl). Alas, a plethora of wrong notes elsewhere will rule his performance out for many.

No less eloquent than Schnabel is his pupil Clifford Curzon, beautifully recorded in the *Maltings* at Snape. In the closing pages Curzon's grace and elegance are in a class of their own. His, then, is my final recommendation. It comes at mid-price (DECCA 452 302-2, £9.99), together with another of Beethoven's grand E flat masterpieces, the *Emperor Concerto*.

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● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Fischer-Dieskau survey

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Richard Morrison has the results of The Times/Junior Prom competition

Winners, winners, everywhere . . .

Appropriately enough we were flooded with saucy entries. The Times's "Wet Wet Wet" competition — for schools to win 500 free tickets, plus travel costs, to the Junior Prom at the Albert Hall on September 8 — required children under 15 years old to write the words of a modern sea-song. The response was fantastic. To the thousands of children who took part — thank you. I hope you had as much fun writing your waterlogged epics as we had reading them.

There were lots of rides on dolphins' backs (clearly No 1 fantasy among nine-year-olds this year), a fair number of our old friends the mermaids popping up, and some ferocious tales of lashing gales and mountainous seas. Ferries and fishermen featured strongly, of course. But so also did some

stunning descriptions of the underwater kingdom.

One budding Herman Melville bravely decided to tell the story of an entire whaling expedition in 20 lines. But we also loved the poem which suggested that we try tickling a whale's tummy. It sounds dangerous, but fun.

And of course there were plenty of ecological disaster-poems. We particularly admired the angry shanty that described all the sea creatures rising up and exacting a terrible revenge on us, the selfish human race. Its title? *Scales of Justice*, naturally.

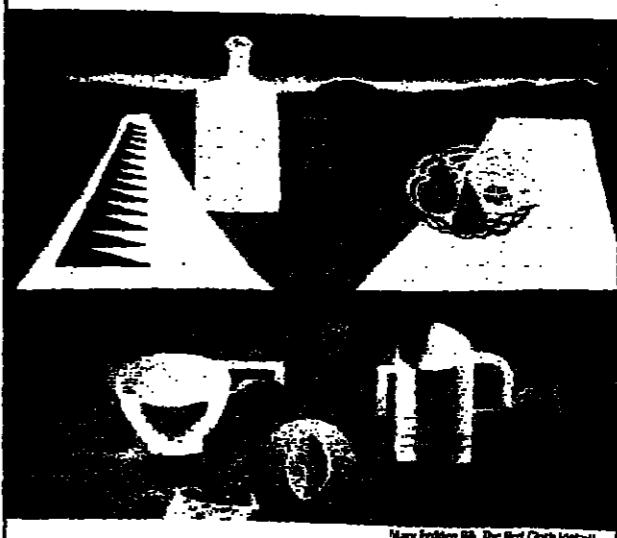
In the end, we selected 12 schools to share our 500 free tickets to the Junior Prom. They are listed below, and they will be contacted directly by the BBC Proms Office about arrangements for the great event on September 8.

Four young poets stand out in particular. Eight-year-old Harriet Swindall, from Sheen Mount Primary School in London, wrote a delightfully alliterative couplet of verses called *Under the Sea and Over the Sea*. From St John's Primary School in Staffordshire, Benjamin Nicholls supplied not only the words but a splendidly catchy tune and piano accompaniment for his *Fisherman's Song* — a remarkably polished effort for a nine-year-old.

Leah Kirby, aged 10, from Fetherston School in Derbyshire, produced a very cautionary tale (for fish at least) about a know-all fish, a nice juicy worm and a fatal miscalculation. And finally there was 12-year-old Holly Morgenroth from St Margaret's School in Exeter. Her jolly song, *The Underwater Wardrobe*, sim-

ply made us laugh a lot. We reproduce it here. And we hope that, on September 8, one of these four fine new sea-songs will be given its first performance at the Proms!

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HOLLY'S SEA-SONG

THE UNDERWATER WARDROBE by Holly Morgenroth

The octopus has many legs
She gets them tied in knots.
And must get through no end of weed
Knitting slimy socks.

She sits upon a cushion star
And sleeps in an oyster shell.
The jellyfish hat upon her head
Suits her very well.

She wears a frilly seaweed gown
And when she goes out for fun
She carries a mania ray.
To shade her from the midday sun.

She rides upon a seahorse
And writes her letters in ink.
She eats her meals off a flatfish dish
With lobster juice to drink.

She doesn't go up to the surface
For fear of getting spots.
So she stays down deep
Amongst the craggy rocks!

A mirror she stole from a mermaid
She keeps in a golden chest.
It tells her she always looks just fine
And at her very best!

WINNING SCHOOLS: Balvally Primary (Coleraine), Barn Street County Primary (Haverford West), Blackboys (Uckfield), Fetherston (Fen-

ny Bentley, Derby), Greenbank (Cheadle Hulme), Hotwells Primary (Bristol), Kingsley (Leamington Spa), St John's Primary (Keele), Staffs), St Margaret's (Exeter), Sheen Mount (East Sheen), Stoke by Nayland (Colchester), Wood Ley Primary (Stowmarket).

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BEETHOVEN'S EROICA Variations CD
Reviewed by Maria Carta

I

THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 17 1997



■ VISUAL ART 1

British triumphs in Venice: Rachel Whiteread is feted for a typically bold installation ...



■ VISUAL ART 2

... and there is acclaim, too, for Douglas Gordon, who revisits a gruesome medical experiment



■ VISUAL ART 3

Young women artists go on show at *Some Kind of Heaven* in the South London Gallery



■ TOMORROW

How the Hayward Gallery will celebrate the art, music and writing of the Harlem Renaissance

AROUND THE GALLERIES

IT SOUNDS like far too simple an idea. Large, simply framed colour photographs of black "souvenirs" in people's houses hang at eye level on the walls at Cafe Gallery. In an accompanying well-written narrative the artist, Dave Lewis, seems to be asking questions aloud. *Nice House* is a simple picture of a couple of collectable items of Negroidia, caught from side on. In the accompanying running-thought piece he tells how, as a child, he used to face at a friend's house with a wooden *dumb waiter*, a model of a serving black man. "Nothing was said but I remember thinking nice house... shame about the decor, darling." But is this what the work is questioning? Do these straightforward photographs hold out on their own without their "explanation"?

Cafe Gallery, Southwark Park, London SE1 (0171-237 1230), until June 22

■ THE suggestion made by this international group exhibition is that girls can now be girls: that women artists can be flippant, indulgent even, without having to be angry or "bad". *Some Kind of Heaven* brings a newer group of women artists together with better-known artists such as Sylvie Fleury, whose huge, furry, mock-zen rockets fight with a video programme to dominate the space at the South London Gallery.

The collective impression is of boys'-comic-meeting-girls'-comic, with the videos keeping up an atmosphere and dingle girl after girl showing off, and dancing alone in front of the mirror. In a deliberately indulgent video, Tracy Emin's boyfriend shouts "Grow up for Christ's sake, you're 35 years old and you behave like a five-year-old".

A general tinkling sound comes from the video installation by Jane and Louise Wilson, in which a shiny blob or bubble repeatedly rises out of a pond to come up behind a standing figure. Such space-age nostalgia is probably part of a look back to a 1980s of optimism, long phone chats, high heels and bright lipstick.

The series of drawings by Elizabeth Peyton combines the relentless adolescent doodle with the fashion sketch to convey an infatuation with a lovely thin boy, while Ute Behrend simply and effectively couples the image of an object or thing with a picture of a girl.

South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Road, London SE5 (0171-703 6138), until July 13

SACHA CRADDOCK

Death still fashionable in Venice

VISUAL ART: The artists at this year's Venice Biennale span a wide age range, but a common theme unites young and old. Richard Cork reports

FUTURE, Present, Past: the theme of the 47th Venice Biennale is broad enough to embrace virtually anything submitted by the contributing countries. So the artists chosen for the national pavilions in the Castello Gardens span an unusually wide age range. At one extreme we find Robert Colescott, a senior American painter who studied under Léger way back in 1949. And at the other, Rachel Whiteread, the young British sculptor who left art school only a decade ago and is one of three British artists to win a prize at this year's Biennale. With astonishing assurance, she has transformed the British Pavilion into the ideal showcase for her single-minded, powerful and continually developing talent.

The outcome is even more impressive than I had expected. In the first room, Whiteread's ability to make a presence out of absence, give emptiness solid form and invest ordinary objects with an unforced grandeur is given imposing form in a large, white plaster sculpture called *Ten Tables*. Scarred, cracked and mottled, it has a stillness which reminded me of Brancusi's *Table of Silence* in Romania. But Whiteread's secular Last Supper, cast from the spaces underneath the furniture, is an unmistakably individual achievement.

The great excitement of her other rooms lies in the gradual unfolding of Whiteread's more sensuous side. A rich, gleaming resin table and chair are juxtaposed with a cream mattress. A deep orange bath occupies a ceremonial chamber of its own, and the main gallery at the back is enlivened by a magisterial floor-piece. The Venetian sun falls straight on to its dark blocks of resin, revealing a surprising range of colours inside them. Although Whiteread's art is elegiac, and bound up with memorialising, her preoccupation with death is conveyed with great serenity and warmth. At the age of only 34, she can already be counted among the most formidable artists at work anywhere in the world. The Biennale jury was right to give her a Best Young Artist award.

Her pavilion is surrounded by disappointing neighbours. Fabrice Hyber's French Pavilion, decked out like a tent, is filled with irritating videos and arbitrary bric-a-brac. Its deliberate disorder contrasts with the emptiness of the German Pavilion, where Gerhard Merz's light sculpture is installed perversely high on the wall. His fastidious coolness could hardly be further

THE WINNERS

Golden Lion
Agnes Martin
Emilio Vedova
Marina Abramovic
Gerhard Richter

Best Young Artist
Rachel Whiteread
Douglas Gordon
Pipilotti Rist

**Illycaffè Award
(most promising young artist)**
Sam Taylor-Wood

Best Pavilion
France

removed from the crowded images installed by Katharina Sieverding in the side rooms, where her enigmatic forms convey a sombre mood.

So it is a relief to find in the Canadian Pavilion an entertaining film where Rodney Graham, arrayed in 18th-century clothes, finds himself stranded like Robinson Crusoe on an idyllic desert island. Coconuts knock him unconscious and the efforts of a squawking parrot fail to revive him. But for all its genteel wit, the film seems a lightweight affair.

This is a multimedia Biennale, and few pavilions are devoted to painters. Abstraction at its most severe reigns in the Swiss Pavilion, where Helmut Federle fills his main space with brooding, minimal canvases. He strives for a pared-down, almost glacial essence, whereas Robert Colescott's large, figurative canvases in the American Pavilion present an angry, hectic and often apocalyptic vision. He sees the US as an emergency room in an overstretched hospital. Racism is his principal concern, and nobody can doubt the sincerity of his moral disquiet. But his paintings, seen en masse, become cluttered and repetitive.

They suffer from the wear-some stridency also to be found in the Russian Pavilion. It is devoid of the ability to surprise which animates Joan Brossa's work in the lively Spanish Pavilion. Insects swarm over one colossal white wall, but his most macabre room is dominated by an instrument of execution. Until Spain abolished the death penalty in 1974, this terrible garrote vil was regularly used. The neck-clamped victim was killed from behind by a spine-snapping device, and Brossa

is the vitality and glee of Pipilotti Rist's video work. While a contended humming fills the soundtrack, she walks down a street aiming a red-hot poker flower at the windows of parked cars. Her improvised weapon must contain a hidden weight, for it smashes the glass every time. She reacts with relish, and nothing can stop her triumphant, ecstatic progress. A passing police-woman simply salutes her and walks on, while the flower-filled fields on a neighbouring screen seem to applaud her

So is the vitality and glee of the young woman in Pipilotti Rist's video work. While a contended humming fills the soundtrack, she walks down a street aiming a red-hot poker flower at the windows of parked cars. Her improvised weapon must contain a hidden weight, for it smashes the glass every time. She reacts with relish, and nothing can stop her triumphant, ecstatic progress. A passing police-woman simply salutes her and walks on, while the flower-filled fields on a neighbouring screen seem to applaud her

read them all out, we find ourselves confronting a rough-hewn sculpture of wood and earth, along with an empty wheelchair waiting for its next maimed occupant.

Anselm Kiefer's exhibition ensures that the elegiac mood is sustained. Displayed with great theatrical flair at the Museo Correr, it begins with two of his largest recent paintings. While one evokes the crumbling structure of a stepped Mayan temple, where sacrificial rituals were once staged, the other fills the sky above an immense furrowed field with sunflower seeds. While symbolising renewal, they also threaten to choke the picture with their swarming blackness; upstairs, the rest of Kiefer's powerful exhibition reveals how he has explored this ambiguity for more than 20 years. Burnt

landscapes

from the 1970s testify to his vision of Germany as a country battered by its own traumatic history. But the strong outlines of a painter's palette are roughly brushed over some of these harrowing scenes. Kiefer's determination to make an eloquent art from the horror of his nation's tragedy cannot be doubted.

In the end, the sense of a profoundly troubled legacy from the past dominates this year's Biennale. The present and the future are both overshadowed, and the predominance of older artists means that we learn disappointingly little about the new, emergent generation.

But there are unexpected pleasures to be found in a retrospective event, not least at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, where a Stuart Davis exhibition is beautifully installed. Although his work cannot be found in British public collections, he is a major American painter. After grasping the significance of Cubism, he abandoned his early involvement with the urban seedy side of Manhattan. But he never lost his infectious love of urban life.

His finest paintings of the



Venice winner Rachel Whiteread, with *Untitled (Paperbacks)*; at 34 she is one of the world's most formidable artists

attack on the polluting vehicles.

If a "green" message underlies Rist's exhibit, she conveys it with irresistible flair and wit. Douglas Gordon, another British winner at this year's Biennale, also makes an impact. For 30 seconds his room is completely dark, and then a single light bulb suddenly illuminates a text on the wall.

It describes how, in 1905, a French doctor tried to communicate with a condemned man's severed head immediately after a guillotine execution.

The face showed definite signs of response for half a minute, the amount of time Gordon allows us before the light is switched off again.

We stand there, waiting to finish reading and nervously finding that our own imaginations visualise the doctor's alarming experiment in the gloom. This fascination with mortality, which also unites the otherwise very different work of Joan Brossa and Rachel Whiteread, is the most potent theme running through the entire Biennale.

In Ireland's contribution, superbly displayed in the Galleria Nuova Icona on the Giudecca, Alastair MacLennan has created a chilling, clinical installation. The papered walls, so reminiscent of white tiles in a mortuary, turn out to be hung with the names of people who have been killed in the recent Irish troubles. While unseen voices solemnly

read them all out, we find ourselves confronting a rough-hewn sculpture of wood and earth, along with an empty wheelchair waiting for its next maimed occupant.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 17 1997

■ THEATRE
Lucinda Cooney
second play
Bush, Widmerpool
confirms there
has a talent
for obscurity



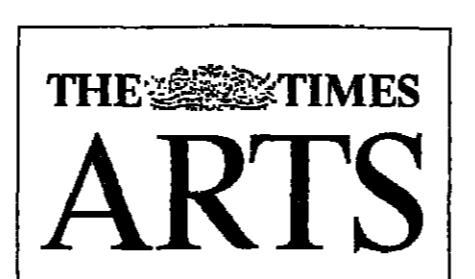
■ MUSIC 1

Lord Menuhin's great Live Music Now! project notches up 20 years of missionary work



■ MUSIC 2

Reinhard Goebel's fine Musica Antiqua Köln explores the tortured music of Jan Zelenka



■ MUSIC 3

... while at the Aldeburgh Festival an early Britten work receives its first performance



■ MUSIC 4

... and at the Wigmore Hall Dawn Upshaw delves into the modern American song repertoire

Joanna Pitman on 20 years of Live Music Now! and its mission to introduce new stars to new audiences. Plus concerts

Millions of happy faces – and one score

Just try this little challenge for size. You have been asked to fill the Barbican Hall (seating capacity 2,000) for a midweek concert at 11am. Your performers are a mixture of enthusiastic amateur musicians and young professionals recently out of college. And your audience will include 600 children with mental and physical health problems, hundreds of old people bussed in from homes all over the country, and the Prince of Wales. And, by the way, the Barbican has only two loos for the disabled.

But the nightmare should go like a dream on Thursday morning, with the usual combination of delight, charm and excitement that Live Music Now! brings to every one of the 2,000 concerts it organises every year.

The concert marks the 20th anniversary of Live Music Now!, the scheme begun by Lord Menuhin to bring live music to audiences that do not normally have access to it, and at the same time provide young professional musicians with their first opportunities to perform.

Music performed by young enthusiasts has a profound and lasting effect on Live Music Now!'s audiences of children with learning difficulties, adults in hostels or hospital wards, and prison inmates. Barriers are broken down, spirits are lifted and, for the performers, the pleasures and rewards of the direct response are tremendous.

Rebecca Woolcock has been on the scheme for two years, since she graduated from music college in Manchester. "I do about 12-15 concerts a year for Live Music Now! in various homes for the elderly

and schools for children with learning difficulties. It's so much more rewarding than playing for more staid concert audiences."

"The children are the best, because they can't hide their reactions. I've found it a wonderful experience to communicate so directly with these very appreciative audiences."

Tomorrow's concert to be attended by friends and supporters of the scheme, will offer music performed by a

'It's so much more rewarding than playing for staid concert audiences'

selection from the 150 specially trained musicians currently on the Live Music Now! programme, as well as an appearance by the soprano Sally Burgess, who took part in the scheme early in her career. Two pieces have been specially written for the occasion by the harpist Tudur Eanes, to be sung by 30 members of the Ty Celyn Youth Group for the disabled.

The Ty Celyn group is run by Maggie Harris, who every Sunday afternoon entertains and inspires 97 handicapped people, aged between seven and 30, who have between them a vast range of special needs. "They've just loved the music," she says. "The Live Music Now! scheme has been

brilliant. The kids get hold of the instruments and they have a go, and you should see the looks on their faces when they're making their own music. It's just wonderful."

The group performing tomorrow includes Patrick, who has cerebral palsy, and Emma, who is profoundly physically handicapped and is blind. "Emma just gets so excited," Harris says. "She'll be playing the maracas. She loves it and often she just won't let them go. She's all there mentally, but she's profoundly disabled. But I wouldn't be surprised if during the concert she jumps out of her wheelchair with excitement."

"Most of the kids can't read, especially when they're singing, but they've learnt two songs and a rap by heart. They'll be talking about it for months afterwards."

Harris enjoys challenges (she took a group of the children climbing in the Dolomites last year and plans a trip for the wheelchair-bound to see the dolphins and whales in Iceland this year), so the Sun start from Wales, the shortage of loos for the disabled and the lack of any ramp or lift access on to the stage at the Barbican are far from insurmountable.

"It is gratifying to see that joy can be awakened even for the most withdrawn or depressed among us," Lord Menuhin says. "The inspiration for the project came from my travels in Germany immediately after the war, when I played for audiences in newly liberated camps. In many cases, the music was their first contact with civilisation. I was seeing these people's strengths

and weaknesses and for the first time I saw what music could do for them. It was an experience which changed and inspired me."

Over the past 20 years his organisation has changed and inspired thousands more.

Flight into Baroque country

**Musica Antiqua
Köln/Goebel
St James, W1**

which must rank as a corporate decision at least as bold as painting bad modern art onto your tail-fins. Zelenka, a Bohemian who became court composer at Dresden while Bach and Handel were flourishing in Leipzig and London, was a mad, gloomy hornosax

ual whose music is also mostly mad and gloomy. But it also reminds us that not everything in the late Baroque was calculated, cogent and cerebral.

Certainly these *Lamentations* are startling. Abrupt speed and metre changes, archaic and anarchic dissonances, and passages where the solo voice is recklessly plunged below all the accompanying instruments: these are hallmarks of the Zelenka style. So is the choppy text-setting: mundane recitative one moment; expressive melody the next. Zelenka's champions find this stop-go stuff zestful and refreshing; his detractors point out that, between the jolts, the harmonic sequences and counterpoints are pretty laboured.

On Friday's showing, five *Lamentations* in a row is a



Barbican-bound: a member of Karella Brass, from the Commonside School, Essex

wearying experience. However, that may have been because the solo singers (the countertenor Steve Dugardin, tenor Christoph Genz and bass-baritone Raimund Nolte) were at least to begin with self-effacing to the point of sounding robotic.

The passion all came from the fine players of Reinhard Goebel's Musica Antiqua Köln (two oboes, five strings and harpsichord). Though the first beat of every bar seemed unduly stressed, the contrapuntal interplay was beautifully sinuous and telling. Zelenka emerged as an interestingly dysfunctional personality who didn't quite have enough musical resourcefulness to express the mountain of distress in his soul.

RICHARD MORRISON

Voice of America

**Upshaw/Kalish
Wigmore Hall**

RECITAL convention was stood on its head when Dawn Upshaw began her long-anticipated London programme with a dozen songs by her American contemporaries all born within five years of herself. Having been precipitated into a certain notoriety by her contribution to the recording of Górecki's lugubrious Third Symphony in both the "pop" and classical charts, her commitment to the music of our own time is beyond question.

Her choice of American songs, however, did not suggest there was much to catch the listener's imagination. From the simple lyricism of two Emily Dickinson settings by Jake Heggie and Anna Weesner respectively, to the pedestrian parlour of "babies gumming French fries" in Kenneth Frazee's *Sunday at McDonald's*, most looked askance at poetic conceits.

Exceptions might be made for Julian Hall's beguiling *Sonnet*, and for John Musto's poignant setting of social concern in *Litanies* (verse by L.

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Further Information

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Fair blows the wind for France

Blair needs lessons from Jospin, not Kohl, says Anatole Kaletsky

Whatever is agreed in Amsterdam to paper over the cracks opening up between France and Germany, the pillars of "the European construction", one striking fact is already clear. The position taken by the Labour Government on key economic issues facing Europe is closer to that of the German Christian Democratic-led coalition than to the newly-elected Socialists in France.

For most sensible people in Britain this is great relief. Sensible people believe that the Germans know more than the French about running an efficient modern economy. If in doubt (which sensible people usually are about economics), they would far rather have Mr Blair follow Helmut Kohl and the Bundesbank than an elderly French professor who looks like an old Labour retreat and sometimes even sounds like Michael Foot. And sensible people are naturally delighted that Britain's new "left of centre" Government seems to have more in common with Europe's right-wing parties than with those on the Left.

But it sometimes happens, particularly in economics, that sensible people turn out to be wrong. I suspect that the disagreement over economic philosophy between Tony Blair and Lionel Jospin could be such a case — or at least could appear to be resolved during the next few years in the Frenchman's favour.

Jospinomics may soon look like a more successful formula than new Labour economics, in two specific respects. First, French unemployment will probably start falling in the next year, perhaps quite sharply, while Britain's may well start rising. Second, France's average living standards, output and productivity, all of which are already above British levels, will probably accelerate, leaving Britain even further behind.

The main reason for believing that M Jospin will do better economically than Mr Blair, at least in both Prime Ministers' first few years of office, is simply that they start from very different positions. Mr Blair inherited a healthy economy, with unemployment low and falling, inflation subdued, living standards going up and national self-confidence reviving. Almost anything that changes will seem to make matters worse.

M Jospin, by contrast, has taken over a badly mismanaged economy, which may now be at its lowest ebb: unemployment is at a post-war record of 12 per cent; consumer and business confidence have been shattered by five years of recession and the French national psyche is in despair about the monetary kowtowing to Germany.

From this nadir, even a modest cyclical recovery (which has, in fact, already started) will give cause for celebration. As for relations with Germany, M Jospin seems bound to win whatever happens. If EMU goes ahead, France will have succeeded in its long-term goal of abolishing the monetary kowtowing to Germany.

Over-excitement in the stunt department of the new James Bond film caused havoc in north London yesterday when the fire brigade was summoned to put out a fire at Brent Cross shopping centre.

The special effects department had set fire to three cars in the car park to give the impression that they had been hit by bazookas in the Bond movie *Tomorrow Never Dies*. Within seconds, flames were

Jospin was lucky to take over a sick economy

sures to make labour markets more flexible, by reducing hiring and firing restrictions, tightening welfare regulations, improving labour training and generally deregulating the economy. The Germans may be unwilling to adopt many of these measures in practice, but in theory they propound them with passion.

What the Germans believe even more passionately — again in agreement with new Labour — is that interest rates, exchange rates and fiscal policies do not directly cause unemployment. These macroeconomic or cyclical policies can do nothing to reduce unemployment: they should be devoted entirely to keeping inflation under control.

This is why the Germans are so determined that the stability pact, which is supposed to govern macroeconomic policy in a POST-EUROPE Europe, should not contain any reference to employment. The French are equally determined to see employment and stability tied together.

The best cure would be a combination of expansionary macro policies and competitive labour market reforms. This is exactly what the Americans have been doing since the mid-1980s. It was also the course which the Tories embarked on after 1992. But with John Major now watching cricket, and Kenneth Clarke unlikely ever to become Leader of the Opposition, there seems to be nobody left in Europe to put forward such a straightforwardly common-sense point of view.

Hot property

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shooting towards the ceiling, acrid black smoke was filling the area and the car park where the scene was being filmed had to be evacuated. Pierce Brosnan had been filming on the site last week, but none of the cast was there yesterday.

"There was a column of smoke clearly visible half way down London's North Circular road," said an onlooker. In what members of the production team described as an over-reaction, four fire engines, three police cars and two ambulances arrived. "Our officers used breathing apparatus and two hose reels. It was a serious fire and we are happy that we were called on perfectly valid grounds," said a fire brigade spokesman.

Eon Productions, the film company, insisted that nobody was endangered, although smoke damage was extensive, and light fittings and concrete were burnt. "We called the fire brigade as a precautionary measure."

After announcing his Private Members' Bill, Mike Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, has his office bombarded with telephone calls and faxes. So, too, has Mike



A period of silence, Sir

The public won't place its trust in a Prince so ignorant of state education

looked with an envious eye at the easy, pleasant consumer options enjoyed by the apolitical Windsors.

But there is a price to pay for being aloof from common experience, and wise royals know it. The price is silence, or at least a measure of discretion, when it comes to subjects in which you not only lack experience but have shown no desire whatsoever to gain any. When the Prince of Wales joined in the modish attacks on our "failed system", and the "fashionable approach" which "abandoned a disciplined structure in schools", he was being plain fatuous. All the

Instead, he appears to imagine that the average state school is as well-resourced and pleasant and lavishly staffed as Gordonstoun or Ludgrove or Eton, but has spent 30 years wilfully encouraging indiscipline and illiteracy just for the fun of it. Does he not read the papers and know that in talking about "fashionable" slackness he is 20 years out of date? As for praising "the Far East", is it the Korean model of chanting conformity he fancies? Or the rulebook Japanese system, which has produced so many breakdowns and suicides?

When he complacently told David

Frost that the Prince's Trust has been "in many ways picking up the pieces of a somewhat failed system", did it occur to the Prince that what his trust actually does is precisely what the bogeymen of progressive education advocated? It does

not harm its clients into rows near blackboards; it listens, encourages their interests and individual talents, guides them tactfully through the business maze and backs them with money and steadfast belief. I have met dozens of them, doing everything from installing Rasta hair-extensions to welding up bangers: they are grateful for the very modern, unstuff approach of the Prince's Trust administrators. No; if you want to respect the Prince of Wales, look at the people who work for him.

Of course, these are heady times. The Blair landslide must make it seem to the heir as if all his own beliefs have at last been vindicated. It is easy to see his temptation to throw aside royal caution and be perceived as a key adviser to an exciting new young Prime Minister. He himself is middle-aged now, battered by divorce and satire, his private life made into an ongoing tabloid farce. Anything which suggests that he is integral to a new, socially advancing Britain must be irresistible. Everyone likes to run down the street after a circus band, especially when it is playing your own tune.

He mustn't. It is not safe — Mr

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Libby Purves

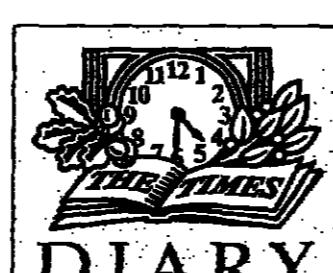
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Foster, MP for Hastings and Rye and another new Labour arrival in the Commons, who has nothing to do with the anti-hunting Bill. A call to his office was answered yesterday with the timid greeting: "Are you sure you want Mike Foster of Hastings and Rye?"

All clear?

TONY BLAIR'S attendance at the European summit in Amsterdam yesterday was headline news at lunchtime on ITN, but viewers were interested in only one item: why was Michael Brunson, the Political Editor, wearing dark glasses on a cold, cloudy day?

Back in London, the switchboard was besieged by callers concerned for the health of their sturdy political pin-up. "It was nothing sinister," explained ITN. "No black eyes

or hayfever, not even a hangover. Simply a pair of sunglasses."

Master's voice

TREMENDOUS news for Alan Duncan, MP for Rutland and Melton, who has been doing sterling work pushing William Hague to the Tory leadership. So effective has he been, not least in promoting the rude health of Hague's relationship with his fiancée Fiona Jenkins, that it is being said that he has been pencilled in for the post of

Hague's PPS. It is felt that Duncan, a bag-carrier nonpareil who used to be Brian Mawhinney's PPS, could perform a skunkish, Mandelsonian role for Hague if he is elected Tory leader; a role best performed free from the shackles of a post in the Shadow Cabinet.

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Foxy ladies

THERE is concern among the bluestockings of Wycombe Abbey School, Bucks, over a BBC film recently shot on its grounds which uses some of the pupils as extras. Bright Hair tells the story of a schoolgirl who becomes involved with a Swengal-like master. Amelie Fox, daughter of the actor Edward Fox, is playing the psychotic schoolgirl.

"The girls have been fascinated by the story," said one parent, "and I think the headmistress may be regretting letting the film crew in." A call to the school bursar reveals some measure of confusion. "I was under the impression," said the bursar, Mr Rainbow, "that it was about a schoolmaster and a school mistress, not a schoolgirl."

more this summer as the Royal Family takes its Scottish break. Sources close to Prince Andrew say that he intends to take his new girlfriend, Henriette Peace, to meet the family in Scotland.



Meet the folks: Henriette

Professor Harris is a man of singular views. He believes, for example, that urban foxes do not scavenge from dustbins. This contradicts not merely a popular myth, but the evidence of man's eyes. Yesterday he stated that "many farmers do not regard foxes as a pest". I have never met single farmer who holds that opinion. The issue is how best to control foxes without exterminating them from the countryside altogether.

In the end, though, the debate about hunting is a waste of time. Hunting must die, eventually, of its own accord. The pressures that the late 20th century has brought to bear upon the countryside will be too much for it. The open country, with hedges and copse, is disappearing. Hunting depends upon just the sort of landscape that the public most enjoys. Better to protect than ban the sport which created it.

P.H.S

We won let Foste outfox u

Clive Aslet urges MPs to keep the urban pack at bay

I am a cruel and barbaric person. I have no independent conscience. I should not be allowed to win the arguments myself and make my own mind. Members of Parliament are better able to do that on behalf of this is the implication of Bill announced by Michael Foster. The fresh-faced MP for Worcester has hunting with hounds. I enjoy hunting, just as Mr Foster enjoys his own (to me repulsive) sport competition angling. It is a sign of new intolerance in British society: we can no longer rub along.

I took up hunting five years ago with the intention of experiencing sport that I imagined would soon or later be outlawed. I approached with eyes, as I thought, unclouded prejudice. I came to discover, however, that almost everything I imagined about it was wrong. Animus against hunting is so intense that it can only be based on class: section of the population resents another (seen as toffs) having fur ways that are unfamiliar to it. I was surprised to find that every shire pack attracts all kinds of followers. Even those mounted horses are not necessarily rich. I have never met anyone who lusts at the death of an animal. It is paradoxical, but hunting people respect foxes and want to see a healthy population of them kept in countryside.

If hunting were banned, my would be diminished, as I believe life of Britain would be diminished. But then I only hunt a few days each season. To many country people hunting is nothing less than their embodiment of sense of community and tradition. It embodies that sense of communion with Tony Blair exhorts us to rediscover in other areas. It unit people of very different levels income. The diary of puppy shooting, point-to-point meetings, hunter trials and social evenings, quite apart from hunting, gives neighbours the opportunity to meet each other. Now that few people work in agriculture, country can be a lonely place.

That explains the passion of sport's followers. It will be simply a pro-hunting event to take place in Hyde Park on July 10. The crowd could be well over 10,000. They will not be people who naturally demonstrate, but if feel very strongly that they should allowed to run their own lives.

Hunting could be to Blair what the poll tax was to Margaret Thatcher — unless, as seems likely, the Government allows this Private Member's Bill to die for lack of time. To many country people the attack on their sport symbolises their opposition at the hands of alien officials which has now been made worse by the lack of country voices in Parliament. There are virtually no English MPs from rural backgrounds on Labour benches, and few among new Tory intake. There is a sense of beleaguerment among rural dwellers which causes emotions to run high. If hunting is banned, I shall give up keeping my horse. I do not pretend that this, by itself, will bring the rural economy to its knees. (I recall the remark of a member of the Royal Family, after I had revealed what thought to be the immense extravagance of owning a horse: "Only horses? How sweet.") Nevertheless, if stable owner, the farrier, the saddle and the vet will all be the poorer. The idea that people would lose jobs hunting ceased was greeted with disbelieving giggle at Mr Foster's press conference yesterday.

Mr Foster believes himself to be motivated by the desire to relieve cruelty to animals. To country people this seems all but incomprehensible given the agonising deaths that suffered by, say, poisoned rats without any outcry from the urban public. If I believed hunting to be crueler than other means of controlling foxes, I would not do it. But hunting is the only method of killing that gives the fox a quick death, o allows it to get clean away. It is also the only one that generally kills only the sick and the old. Shooting does not kill all foxes outright — some die slowly. Nor does the shooter differentiate between victims. Yet shooting by licensed marksmen is the method of dispatch favoured by Mr Foster.

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The author is Editor of Country Life

We won't let Foster outfox us
Clive Aslet urges MPs to keep the urban pack at bay



THE TORY TASK

Recovery requires a leader to face the federalists

Baroness Thatcher has never found it difficult to express an opinion but even she cannot bring herself to endorse any of the candidates left running for the leadership of the Conservative Party. It is not difficult to understand why. Although each has strengths, all are flawed. To endorse any of them full-heartedly would mean contriving a naive enthusiasm and suppressing mature scepticism. Endorsement now, in any case, can be of only limited purpose. The momentum and numbers are with William Hague and he seems fated to secure the prize. He has done nothing to make that an injustice but little so far to make it fitting. It will, in any case, be a prize worth winning only if Mr Hague and his party show themselves capable of learning from the humiliation so recently inflicted upon them.

Speaking last night in Oxford Lord Archer sought to tutor his party in lessons from Labour. His analysis of the superiority of the Labour machine, a "champion tank" to the Tories' cavalry charge, is accurate as far as it goes, but it does not begin to go far enough. By concentrating on the need for organisational reform Lord Archer, like his preferred candidate, Mr Hague, is dealing with a symptom not a cause. It is certainly true that the Tories need to overhaul their organisation and democratise their structures but they need more than re-engineering; they require a new direction.

Labour did not win because its campaign was superior. The party's election effort was more than a match for the Conservatives in 1987 and 1992. Labour won because its message was coherent, its leader convincing and the Tories were neither. The Conservatives forfeited the electorate's trust, provided no persuasive social vindication for their return to office and were incapable of communicating to the outside world why the issue that consumed them — Europe — was of such importance.

John Redwood is right to argue that the

Tories' European civil war can only be satisfactorily concluded with victory for one side or another. To leave the issue of entry to a single currency open is to invite the two sides of the argument to a five-year wrestle on the Reichenbach Falls. The Tories should give that madness a miss and the election of a new leader must settle the matter.

The case for Mr Hague rests on the belief that he will be best able to articulate a policy of clear opposition to a single currency while reaching out to federalists within Conservative ranks. The spread of his support certainly suggests he could provide inclusive leadership, although it may also mean that some who repose hopes in him now will face disillusionment. How Mr Hague will heal his fractured party is still difficult to discern but he is, at least, right to recognise that "it is more important to have a cohesive team than to have every person in the party in it".

The prospect that some Tories may leave the fray, or at least its frontline, to play the backbench Achilles would be a matter for regret but not distress. The memory of Labour in the Eighties haunts Tory dreams but their current divisions do not yet bear direct comparison. The failure of the Social Democrats in 1983, and the difficulties Alan Howard endured on the road to Newport via Damascus, provide a warning for those contemplating desertion. More than that, the Tory federalists do not have the consolation of knowing, as the SDP defectors did, that their views are closer than their opponents to the voters' instincts.

When Labour moved to unilateralism it moved away from a public who favoured keeping the pound. As the Tories have moved away from the single currency they have found that public support has hardened for keeping the pound. Within the Opposition a sceptical stance has to be taken for granted: political energies have to be released for deployment elsewhere. Mr Hague seems to appreciate that lesson.

NOT DEAD YET

The Middle East peace process can still move forward

The distinction between an impasse and a stalemate might seem rather subtle, but it is very significant in the Middle East. The outward signs for the peace process of late have been discouraging. For the past three months serious dialogue has been suspended. The Har Homa housing project initiated by Israel in March has led Yassir Arafat to boycott further deliberations. The continued deadlock partly explains Binyamin Netanyahu's decision to cancel his visit to the US this week.

Mr Netanyahu has had other distractions. His role in the Bar-On scandal nearly forced his resignation: only on Sunday did the Israeli Supreme Court make it clear that neither he nor his Minister for Justice would be indicted. His fractious coalition is in further crisis over appointments and legislation. Dennis Ross, the American mediator, failed to restart the peace process. Egypt's Osama el-Baz has taken on that task without immediate success.

The prospects for peace are not as poor as such incidents might suggest. The process remains the only plausible option for both Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat. The Har Homa dispute is more symbolic than substantive. It lies on Jewish land between two existing Jewish settlements. In different times it would not have provoked the current controversy. It has become a trial of strength between the two sides, part of an intense pattern of positioning before the prospective onset of "final status" talks.

The same was true last September when Israel opened a second entrance to the tunnel that runs beneath the Muslim quarter of the old city of Jerusalem. That was bitterly denounced by Mr Arafat and the Palestine National Authority. Accusations of sacrifice abounded. It apparently provoked the violent exchanges between the Israeli

Army and Palestinian police that truly shook peace to its foundations. Yet once Israel agreed to redeploy its troops from Hebron the protests abated.

The two sides need to extricate themselves from the present impasse. Mr Arafat has said he will not return to the bargaining table unless building at Har Homa is suspended. Mr Netanyahu was apparently inclined to concede a short-term pause but dissociated himself from that idea once it was leaked to the press by the Palestinian side. The solution, like the problem itself, lies elsewhere. Mr el-Baz has rightly concentrated on finding other areas where Israel can satisfy the Palestinians. Mr Netanyahu has offered to accelerate Arab housing developments in Jerusalem. Mr Netanyahu has also offered his first thoughts on what principles would guide him in final status negotiations. These gestures should prove sufficient to soon persuade Mr Arafat to resume the dialogue.

Those fresh talks will not go far if the present structure for the peace process is retained. The prolonged "interim" phase preceding final status talks has almost invited the endless disputes and reciprocal brinkmanship that have marked the last twelve months. That would probably be true even if Shimon Peres had been re-elected in Israel. The only way of avoiding endless advance manoeuvring is to move to the ultimate round as quickly as possible.

Mr Arafat has resisted that suggestion, preferring instead slowly to accumulate concessions from Israel. He has been willing to encourage violent demonstrations as part of this practice. As the Har Homa affair has demonstrated, that is a deeply risky strategy. Once the process resumes it should do so in full. If not the next impasse may indeed evolve into an enduring stalemate.

THE EYES OF JUSTICE

Forty years on, salute the conscience of society

Views that were once seen as radical by the legal establishment have quietly but firmly become mainstream. It is no longer thought subversive to believe that the British criminal justice system is capable of producing miscarriages of justice or that the European Convention on Human Rights should be incorporated into domestic law. In part this is a reflection of a generational change at the top of the profession. But it has also come about thanks to the thoughtful and unremitting work of Justice the all-party law reform group, which celebrates its 40th anniversary today.

The organisation has much to celebrate. A series of high-profile victims of wrongful conviction have been released from jail. Not only has Justice won these individual cases; it can now hand over responsibility for investigating miscarriages of justice to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

The official recognition that mistakes can be made, even in British courts, is perhaps Justice's greatest achievement. Before the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice was set up, many judges thought it heretical even to suggest that they and their juries could send innocent people to jail. To hold this view was said to undermine confidence in the criminal justice system. In reality it was a wider claim too to be seen as the conscience of society.

Criminal Cases Review Commission is a formal acknowledgement of the need to investigate, rather than cover up or deny, suspicions of wrongful convictions. The culture of complacency has been overturned.

But Justice is not merely a pressure group for innocent people in jail, though that has been the most public of its activities. It also works effectively, and often behind the scenes, on law reform. It has an untarnished reputation for impartiality and its detailed research reports carry weight with politicians and civil servants.

The organisation's influence has brought about the ombudsman system, the original Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and data protection laws. It has helped to ensure the inclusion of some safeguards in the much criticised measures for disclosure of evidence, and has made asylum procedures and sentencing fairer.

The key to Justice's success is that it commands respect and backing from top lawyers across the political spectrum. Studied non-partisan, the organisation seeks merely to safeguard the liberties of the citizen. Lord Alexander of Weeton, Justice's chairman, describes it as "the conscience of the legal profession". In the pioneering work it has done over the past 40 years, it has a wider claim too to be seen as the conscience

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Financial rethink in defence review

From Squadron Leader T. A. Chivers, RAF (retd)

Sir, David Hart's worries about the defence operational audit and the relationship between ministers and decision-makers ("We can have more bang for our bucks", June 5), while important, pale into insignificance beside more fundamental questions.

Is the continuance of our Rapid Reaction Force in Germany meant to deter the Russians or to reassure the United States about our commitment to Nato?

Would political and diplomatic adjustments not make our costly, post-imperial garrisons in Cyprus, Brunei and the Falklands unnecessary?

One wonders whether the Royal Navy really needs its commando assault ships, and if so, what for. Is a force of about 30 destroyers/frigates adequate for the defence of these islands?

Does the RAF need over 200 frighteningly expensive Eurofighters, or would an off-the-shelf purchase instead, say, from the United States really devastate Britain's aerospace industry?

New Labour will undoubtedly wish to continue the Trident programme, but some thought must surely be devoted to the likelihood of our ever unleashing a nuclear missile against, perhaps, a Middle Eastern power. Their rulers' lack of rationality might render them impervious to the threat of such a weapon. Indeed, deterrence itself, long the staple of many academics as well as of the military, needs to be reviewed.

Yours faithfully,
T. A. CHIVERS
(Senior lecturer in defence and international affairs, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, 1989-94),
23 Norwich Road,
Northwood Hills, Middlesex.
June 9.

From Rear-Admiral J. P. W. Middleton

Sir, David Hart's article displays a narrow actuarial approach which ignores the thews and sinews of the Armed Forces. To view them in the drab language of bureaucracy, simply as providers of units of defence capability is to misunderstand the complexity, long-term aspects of training and ethos which are needed to deliver capability, not just now but far into the future.

Great damage is already being done. The *Front Line First* study (reports and leading article, July 15, 1994) largely set aside the vital contribution to sustainability and credibility made by logistic and maintenance excellence. The plethora of agencies now established all nibble away at uniformed expertise and at valuable sources of versatile, trained manpower. Putting training out to contract threatens the continuity of relevant experience guaranteed by trainers drawn from front-line units.

My concern is that too many service officers within the Ministry of Defence have taken the honeyed bait provided by Mr Hart and his ilk and have adopted, with great enthusiasm, this simplistic attitude. A headquarters full of management accountants is unlikely to impress the troops — ours or theirs.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MIDDLETON
(Chief Staff Officer (Support) to the C-in-C Fleet, 1989-92),
Manora, Chilmark, Wiltshire.
June 9.

Regulation of auditors

From the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Sir, How reassuring to read the article by Austin Mitchell, MP ("Calling auditors to account", Business, May 29), calling for the end of self-regulation in the auditing and insolvency sector.

We have a new Government, new ministers, new issues. But Mr Mitchell is still playing his Bourbon tune: learnt nothing and forgotten nothing.

As Mr Mitchell well knows, the accountancy bodies are not trade associations. They operate under a royal charter that requires them to maintain standards in the public interest. The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales regulates some 8,000 audit firms and around 1,000 insolvency practitioners under statute. It examines carefully all complaints from the DTI and elsewhere, and takes action appropriate in the circumstances.

Audit regulation at the institute has never been "chaps regulating chaps". There has been lay involvement at all points in the process and publicity for any firm that has its audit registration withdrawn. The independent joint disciplinary scheme publishes a report on each public-interest case when it reaches its conclusions.

These most complex of cases take time to process. But the fines and costs against members and firms have often been substantial. Delays in the case of BCCI arose when the disciplinary scheme was subject to a court decision preventing it from investigating the role of the auditors while other investigations were in train.

Yours faithfully,
C. N. LAINE, President,
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales,
Chartered Accountants' Hall,
PO Box 433,
Moorgate Place, EC2R 2BZ.

Crucial factors in leadership choice

From Mr Giles Chichester, MEP for Devon and East Plymouth (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, I am fascinated to learn that all the 17 Conservative MEPs who were consulted about the leadership of the party reached the same conclusion in favour of Ken Clarke (report, June 11).

There are two schools of opinion within our ranks, one more Eurosceptic and a smaller one, including myself, more Eurosceptic. So it is all the more remarkable that we should all, separately and individually, make the same judgment about the future, as did a clear majority of every section of the party except MPs themselves. Who then is more in touch with opinion?

For my part I am not so keen on what I perceive as Mr Clarke's views on the European issue but I think it is more important for party and country that we go for a man of wide ministerial experience who is the only candidate with experience of being in opposition and who is most likely to keep the party firmly on the centre-right ground which we must hold in order to win the next general election.

Labour can't wait for us to make the same mistake it did after the 1979 election when it voted for ideological purity and turned down Denis Healey, the one man who would then have posed us serious problems.

Yours faithfully,
GILES CHICHESTER,
49 Queen Street, Exeter, Devon.
June 13.

From Mrs Norma Graves

Sir, Both Kenneth Clarke and William Hague were part of John Major's Cabinet that chose to ignore the message which the grass roots and the general public were sending to them. John Redwood, on the other hand, was against VAT on fuel and eventually resigned from the Cabinet, urging the Government to change its policies ("no change, no chance"). The present situation might not have arisen if Cabinet members and MPs had put party and country before self-preservation.

The Conservative Party needs a leader with intellect, ability, integrity and clarity of vision. John Redwood has shown he has all these and that he can perform well in the House. The result from his constituency in the general election was the best of all the leadership contenders — a clear message of confidence from people who know him.

Yours etc,
NORMA GRAVES,
The Garth House,
Tillingham, Petworth, West Sussex.
June 16.

From Mrs L. A. Skinner

Sir, With all due respect to Mr Hague's great talents and potential for the future, if the Conservatives had won the last election and it had been announced that in the new Cabinet Mr Hague would occupy the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer, Home Secretary or Foreign Secretary, there would have been a lot of raised eyebrows in the country, to put it mildly.

Now we are told that in less than

five years he will be ready to challenge for the post of the Prime Minister of Great Britain — is this some kind of gallows humour?

Yours faithfully,
L. A. SKINNER,
28 Lakeside Avenue,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys.
June 12.

From Mr Andrew Cruckshank

Sir, Kenneth Clarke's team boasts that their man has the majority support of constituency members round the country. Of course he does. These are the supine and sycophantic rump who unthinkingly supported every step which led to the final debacle.

Of more concern should be the views of ex-members (like myself after 30 years) who could no longer stomach the appeasement and fudge on Europe. The Conservative Party has little hope of re-election until it can convince its lost support that it will reassess and defend Britain's status as an independent sovereign nation.

There is one person who recognises this policy imperative. John Redwood was the only Conservative with the guts to take up John Major's gauntlet in 1995 and with the political nous to prophesy "no change, no chance" — which came spectacularly true two years on.

Yours faithfully,
A. A. C. CRUCKSHANK,
The Doone,
Byfleet Road, Cobham, Surrey.
June 16.

From Lord Laing of Dunphall

Sir, It has been said that some people can understand and not decide and others can decide and not understand and that very few can do both.

The electorate, rightly or wrongly, perceived a degree of indecision during the period of the last Government. I have never met Mr Hague, but his change of stance overnight with Michael Howard must put a question mark over his ability to decide.

What we need above all is a party now is a leader with the power of command, control and decision. Mr Ken Clarke clearly holds the high ground on all these counts. With the difficulties the party has experienced in the last few years these qualities seem to me to be crucial. Additionally there is no substitute for experience. That is why I support Ken Clarke.

Yours sincerely,
HECTOR LAING,
High Meadows, Windsor Road,
Tillingham, Petworth, West Sussex.
June 16.

From Mr Anthony Plant

Sir, The canvassing on behalf of the various candidates has led me to a firm conclusion: the Conservative Party should have resigned after the last election so that Mr Major could elect a new one.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY B. PLANT,
178 Clay Lane,
South Yardley, Birmingham.
tony.plant@compuserve.com
June 16.

drive-time radio programme across the US must, by any definition, have real substance.

Brenda Maddox also misunderstood the position on efficiency savings at BBC World Service. There is no question, after restructuring, of the BBC "hacking back" the savings for itself. All money from the grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is of course ring-fenced. The savings made will come directly to World Service and contribute to making us even more competitive and better able to deliver new and improved services to listeners.

Yours sincerely,
SAM YOUNGER,
Managing Director,
BBC World Service,
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Bush House,
PO Box 76, Strand, WC2.

Sales patter

From Mr Peter Moss

Sir, How strange that people should object to the phrase "There you go" (Mr Terry Sadler's letter, June 13) as used by shop assistants and others, when for years we have accepted the equally meaningless "There you are".

Yours faithfully,
PETER MOSS,
24 Quaggy Walk, Blackheath, SE3.

From Mr John Hudson

Sir, Here you are, Mr Sadler; but is this much more meaningful than "There you go"?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUDSON,
55 Gibbon Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

From Mr W. A. Allison

Sir, Having purchased a pair of chinos from a large store in Detroit, I walked away from the



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 16: The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, The Prince of Wales, The Princess Royal and The Duke of Kent, held a Chapter of the Most Noble Order of the Garter in The Queen's Ballroom, Windsor Castle at 12.00 noon.

The following Knights Companion were present: The Earl of Longford, the Marquess of Aberavenny, the Duke of Grafton, the Lord Hunt, the Duke of Norfolk, Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Lewin, the Lord Richard of Dintisbourne, the Lord Coligny of Arundel, Viscount Leverhulme, the Lord Heathcote of St. Marylebone, the Duke of Wellington, Field Marshal the Lord Farnham, the Rt Hon Sir Edward Heath MP, the Viscount Ridley, the Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, the Rt Hon Sir Ninian Stephen, the Lord Kingsdown, the Lord Ashburton, the Baroness Thatcher, Sir Edmund Hillary and Sir Timothy Colman.

The Officers of the Order were: the Bishop of Winchester (Primate), the Lord Carrington (Chancellor), the Dean of Windsor (Registrar), Mr Peter Gwynne-Jones (Garter), General Sir Edward Jones (Black Rod) and Mr Hubert Cheshire (Secretary).

The Queen invested The Duke of Gloucester with the insignia of a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

Today's royal engagement

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, will open the new Kennedy Institute building, Charing Cross Westminster Medical School, the Sunley Building, Aspasia Road, London W6, at 11.00.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Edward I, reigned 1272-1307, London, 1299; John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, Epworth, Lincolnshire, 1703; Charles François Gounod, composer, Paris, 1818; Sir William Crookes, physicist, discoverer of thallium, London, 1832; Igor Stravinsky, composer, Orenburg, Russia, 1882; James Cameron, journalist, Battersea, 1911.

DEATHS: Joseph Addison, essayist, London, 1719; Sir William Wyndham, politician, Wells, 1740; Lord William Bentinck, Governor-General of India, 1827-35, Paris, 1830; Richard H. Barham, author of *The Ingoldsby Legends*, London, 1845; Sir Edward Burne-Jones, painter, London, 1888; Dorothy Richardson, novelist, Beckenham, Kent, 1957; John Cowper Powys, novelist, Blaenau, 1963.

German aircraft sank *The Lorraine* off St Nazaire and over 2,500 troops and refugees perished, 1940.

The first kidney transplant operation took place in Chicago, 1950. Five men were caught attempting to bug the Democratic National Committee offices at the Watergate complex in Washington, 1972.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness later gave a Luncheon Party.

The Installation Service was held in St George's Chapel this afternoon.

The Lord Camoys (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Arrival of The President of the Republic of the Philippines and Mrs Fidel Ramos and welcomed them on behalf of The Queen.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 16: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this afternoon opened the Neuroscience Centre of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

Her Royal Highness was received by Mr John Saville (Deputy Lieutenant of West Midlands).

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK
June 16: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened the Pathology/Radiology extension at the North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Mary Fagan).

Her Royal Highness subsequently opened Parklands Hospital, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke.

Princess Alexandra, Patron of the World War Preservation Trust, this evening attended a Reception on board HMS Warrior 1860 at Her Majesty's Naval Base, Portsmouth.

The Queen invested The Duke of Gloucester with the insignia of a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

Luncheons

Baroness Fisher of Rednal
Baroness Fisher of Rednal was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the House of Lords for the International Institute of Risk and Safety Management. Professor Brian Toft was a speaker.

Farmers' and Fletchers' Companies

Mr Marcus Cornish, Master of the Farmers' Company, and Major-General A.P.W. MacLean, Master of the Fletchers' Company, presided at a luncheon held yesterday at Farmers' Hall. The Master of the Arbitrators' Company was among the guests.

Rotary Club of London

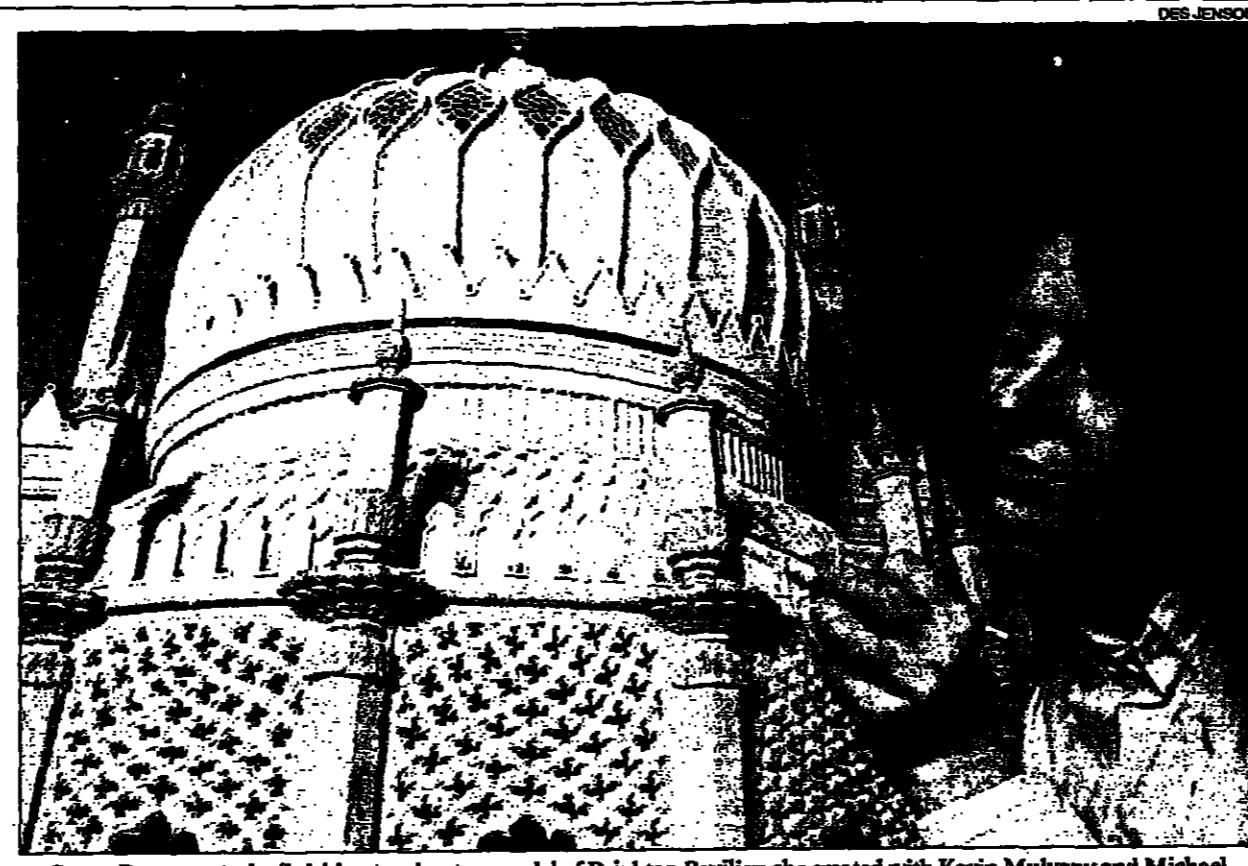
Mr Bill Cowen, President of the Rotary Club of London, presided at a luncheon held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Mr Ken Standish and Mr Neville Shulman also spoke.

Monday Luncheon Club

Mr Roland Shaw, Chairman of the Monday Luncheon Club, presided at a luncheon held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Mr Christopher Fraser, MP, was the principal guest.

Baron Hurd of Westwell

The life barony conferred upon Mr Douglas Richard Hurd has been gazetted by the name style and title of Baron Hurd of Westwell, of Westwell in the County of Oxfordshire, under Lord Edward Howard.



Susan Rogers puts the finishing touches to a model of Brighton Pavilion she created with Kevin Mulvaney and Michael Edwards for a museum of miniatures in Los Angeles. It will join models of Hampton Court and Versailles there

French scour seabed for truth about legendary naval clash

By IAN MURRAY

MODERN technology and a poem in Latin are being used to find the wrecks of English and French warships which sank in flames with the loss of more than 1,500 men during a fierce naval battle almost 500 years ago.

A study of the wrecks should help to prove whether England or France was right in claiming victory in one of the bloodiest actions of the Holy League wars.

The poem is an epic called *Chordigeria* written by the 16th-century French ecclesiastic, German Brice, to praise the heroic death of the sunken French ship's commander.

Written in 1513, a year after the battle, it provides the only contemporary clue to where the two ships went down.

The technology involved is an advanced marine metal detector, capable of picking up the weakest signals from sunken objects. The French archaeological research group (Gran) has started to comb a wide area of the Atlantic off Brest for the wrecks, dragging one of the detectors behind a trawler.

The search has already discovered over a dozen other wrecks which will be investigated when the diving season opens at the end of July.

The action was joined off Brest on August 10, 1512, when Henry VIII's fleet of 45 ships, under Lord Edward Howard,

surprised a French fleet of 39 vessels coming out of Camaret Bay at the entrance to Brest harbour.

The largest ships in the English fleet were the 1,000-ton *Regent* and *Sovereign*. *Pride* of the French was a brand-new carrack. *Marie la Cordeliere*, with a crew of 1,200, captained by a Breton sailor, Hervé de Portzmoguer.

Lord Howard, according to

an English contemporary account, was keen for a fight after two months of harrying the Brittany coast. The English were taken aback, however, by the ferocity of the French counter-attack.

The *Sovereign* was trapped behind the big French carrack and the *Regent* tried to come to her rescue.

From that point on the English and French accounts of the battle are totally at odds. According to the English chronicler "the Englishmen entered the carrack, which setting a variety gunner, being desperate put fire in the

gunpowder ... and set the whole of the ship on fire, the flame whereof set fire in the *Regent*; and so these two noble ships were consumed by fire. The French Navy, perceiving this, fled in all haste".

Through French eyes, however, the carrack "caught along among so many foes, struggled with a courage that was almost miraculous". She had put several of the 12 vessels surrounding her out of action "when, from the top of a hostile vessel, there was flung into her a mass of fireworks, the flame from which instantly took hold".

The captain resolved to go down with her and, sighting the *Regent*, "bore down upon her, pitilessly grappled her and wound her in her own flaming robe".

"The powder magazine of the *Regent* blew up and with it the hostile ship; while the *Cordeliere* blew up also". The English fleet, say the French, then took flight.

That story inspired the epic poem, which sites the last moments of the two ships off the tip of Pointe de Saint-Mathieu. That is where the search, which may last two years, is under way.

Max Guefort, director of the project, hopes that a study of the wrecks will show whether they blew up through the actions of "a varlet gunner" or the bravery of the "immortal captain".

Birthdays today

Lord Barber of Tewkesbury, 79; Mr S.A. Bowes Lyon, Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, 65; Sir Michael Caine, former chairman, Booker, 70; Mr R.D. Charlton, chief executive, Current Science Group, 48; Viscount Cowdray, 53; Dr Andrew Coyle, former Governor, Bristol prison, 53; Sir William Dale, legal consultant, 91; Sir Edward Downes, conductor, 73; Sir Patrick Duffy, former MP, 77; Mrs Laura Duncan, Sheriff of Glasgow and Strathkelvin, 50; Sir Patrick Fairweather, diplomat, 61; Sir Stanley Grinstead, former chairman, Reed International, 73; Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Le Cheminant, 77; Mrs Jacqueline Lang, President, Girls Schools Association, 53; Mr Ken Livingston, 50; Mr Philip Mahon, MEP, 59; Mr Barry Manilow, singer and songwriter, 61; Mr Hugh MacMahon, MEP, 59; Mr Barry Manilow, singer and songwriter, 61; Mr Peter Michael, chairman, Classic FM, 59; Professor Karol Sikora, oncologist, 49; Lieutenant-Colonel A.M. Sprott, former Lord Lieutenant of Tweeddale, 78; Mr Brian Sutliff, cricketer, 67; Captain R.W.K. Stirling of Fairburn, Lord Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty and Skye and Lochalsh, 65; Lord Sudley, 58; Sir Mervyn Thomas, former president, Welsh Liberal Party, 79; Professor Sir Alan Walters, economist, 71.

Mr R.C. Hyder and Miss P.J. Hodge

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Hyder, of Edinburgh, and Pamela, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Chisholm, of Chobham, Surrey, and Iris, daughter of Ms Lucy Leong, of John Bahru, Malaya.

Mr S.G. O'Brien and Miss K.A. Byers

The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael O'Brien, of Prestbury, Cheshire, and Kate, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Antony Byars, of North Dalton, East Yorkshire.

Mr P. Wightman and Miss E. Chapman

The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs B.E. Wightman, of Finsstock, Oxford, and Louise, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Chappell, of Sneyd Park, Bristol.

Mr M.C. Ellison and Miss K.W. Satchfield

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Philip S. Ellison, of Bromley, Kent, and Karen, daughter of Mrs Pauline Satchfield and the late Mr Frederick Satchfield, of Upminster, Essex.

Mr T. Currow and Miss E. Banks

The engagement is announced between Toby, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Banks, of The Elms, Bath, and Eleanor, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Banks, of Colinton, Edinburgh.

Mr R.C. Hyder and Miss P.J. Hodge

Craig Osborne to be a district judge on the Northern Circuit. The Hon Mr Justice Douglas Brown to be a presiding judge of the Northern Circuit from January 1998. The Hon Mr Justice Thomas to be a presiding judge of the Wales and Chester circuit from January 1998.

THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 17 1997

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J.S. Laughton and Mrs M. Leong

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Sir Anthony Laughton of Chippingfold, Surrey, and Mrs Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Hodges of Edinburgh, and Mrs Wallace, of Southampton.

Mr S.R. Barlett and Miss C.B. Pattison

The engagement is announced between Stuart, elder son of Mr and Mrs Barry Barlett, of Gqeberha, South Africa, and Clara, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Pattison, of Hoole, Sussex.

Mr T. Currow and Miss E. Banks

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Legal appointments

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The Hon Mr Justice Douglas Brown to be a presiding judge of the Northern Circuit from January 1998.

The Hon Mr Justice Thomas to be a presiding judge of the Wales and Chester circuit from January 1998.

Church news

St Margaret's, Coventry and Mission in the Coventry East Team. The Rev Adrian Judd, Curate, St Augustine of Hippo, Holly Hall-Dudley (Worcester); to be Vicar, St Jude's, Stockbridge Village (Liverpool).

The Rev Barry Keeton, Rector, St John the Baptist, Coventry; to be Area Dean of Coventry North.

The Rev Melvyn Matthews, Rector, Chew Magna w/ Dunstable, Wellow & Strathearn (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Bruce Graham, Rector, St Paul's, Redditch; to be Priest-in-charge, West Poldens (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Robert Griffiths, Rector, High Ongar w/ Norton Mandeville (Chelmsford); to be Priest-in-charge, Hinchington w/ Stretton-on-Fosse & Ditchford w/ Preston on Stour w/ Whitchurch and Atherton on Stour (Coventry).

The Rev David Hodgson, Priest-in-charge, Wokingham All Saints (Wokingham All Saints' Oxford).

The Rev Stephen Holroyd, Vicar, Eye St. Martin (Peterborough); to be the incumbent, Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flinton (St Albans).

The Rev Lydia Humphrey, Curate, St. Faith's, Gaywood, King's Lynn (Norwich); to be Team Vicar.

The Rev James Morrison, Royal Army Chaplain; to be Priest-in-charge, St. Mary, Burghill; St. Mary Magdalene, Streteon (Hereford).

The Rev Peter Plunkett, Vicar, St James, West Derby; to be also an Honorary Canon of Liverpool Cathedral.

The Rev Stephen Plunkett, Vicar, Eye St. Martin (Peterborough); to be the incumbent, Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flinton (St Albans).

The Rev Lydia Humphrey, Curate, St. Faith's, Gaywood, King's Lynn (Norwich); to be Team Vicar.

The Rev James Morrison, Royal Army Chaplain; to be Priest-in-charge, St. Mary, Burghill; St. Mary Magdalene, Streteon (Hereford).

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JUNE 17 1997

Windfall whirlwind sweeps Norwich and Nationwide

By MARIANNE CURPHEY
AND ANNE ASHWORTH

THE demutualisation windfall bonanza gathered pace yesterday with a minimum £1,000 payout for 1.8 million with-profit policyholders of Norwich Union, the insurer.

Meanwhile, the Nationwide, while still defending the merits of being a mutual, acted to deter speculators who believe that it will

become the next building society to become a bank.

Enthusiasm for the Woolwich flotation, due next month, has led to predictions of 332p as the opening price of the shares, giving a minimum windfall of £1,494. Earlier this year, the value of Woolwich shares was estimated at 175p to 200p.

In yesterday's first-day trading, Norwich Union shares rose 34½p above the initial strike price of 290p.

Those members who had subscribed for extra shares at a 25p-a-share discount to the institutional strike price of 290p saw a paper profit of almost 60p a share.

The heavily oversubscribed public offer meant there was strong demand for the stock. Within minutes of the start of trading, the shares had touched 356p. At the end of the first hour, the early enthusiasm dimmed a little. The stock

closed the day at 324½p. A total of 148 million shares changed hands.

Some institutions were building holdings gradually, believing that the price may fall again next Monday, when members who applied for extra shares receive their certificates and can deal for the first time.

The Nationwide, now the largest society after the Halifax conversion, yesterday raised the minimum investment on its accounts to

stem the flow of money from new customers. Its popular InvestDirect postal account now has a minimum of £2,000, up from £500.

Although some Nationwide branches are asking prospective savers to make appointments to open accounts, the society denied that raising the minimum sum was primarily intended to deter carpetbaggers, although raising the minimum sum has become societies'

most common weapon against speculators. The Nationwide preferred to emphasise the success of its recent savings initiative, which has attracted customers from the Halifax and the Alliance & Leicester.

Citing "unwelcome speculative activity", the Coventry, the tenth-biggest society, doubled the minimum for postal accounts to £2,000.

Tempus, page 30

Owen quits NatWest over £90m 'black hole'

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN OWEN, chief executive of NatWest's troubled investment banking arm, quit his post yesterday. This, along with a warning on first-half profits, sent shares in the UK bank sharply lower and wiped £735 million off its market value.

Mr Owen, an active member of the Salvation Army who joined NatWest in 1983, was still negotiating his pay-off last night. It is expected that the bank will honour his one-year rolling contract based on a basic annual salary of £300,000. At the end of last year Mr Owen also held a special share executive option on 167,175 NatWest shares, which yesterday closed at 755p, having started the day at 796p and at one point touched 819½p.

Derek Wanless, group chief executive of NatWest, is to take on the additional responsibility for NatWest Markets (NWM), where he has already worked, as acting chief executive. City analysts last night questioned whether Mr Wanless could fulfil both roles effectively.

NatWest had been under pressure to let Mr Owen go since the banking group announced in March that it had uncovered a £90 million "black hole" in the interest rate options book at NatWest Markets. Six employees were suspended pending the outcome of an internal investigation and Mr Owen voluntarily gave up £200,000 of his £500,000 bonus for last year.

An internal report into the derivative losses will be completed this month and passed to the Bank of England and

the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog for brokers and futures dealers. The Serious Fraud Office is keeping a "watching brief" on the NWM situation.

Mr Owen oversaw the rapid expansion of NWM during his reign as chief executive, spending more than \$1 billion since October 1995 on a series of American acquisitions and on Cartmore, the successful UK fund manager.

Mr Wanless denied yesterday that NWM was to be sold and said that a strategic review was being carried out to improve "controls and risk management wherever necessary, and to focus on speeding up progress towards acceptable returns in key business areas".

He added: "This is not a lack of commitment to investment banking. We want to make sure that there is strong leadership and a clear direction for the business so that we make the most out of our acquisitions and a better return for our shareholders. Martin Owen and I both decided that it was proper to have a new chief executive."

Mr Owen did not go to his NWM office yesterday but went straight to NatWest Bank's headquarters in the City where his NatWest career was effectively finished.

NatWest, which recently broker off merger talks with Abbey National, also admitted the problems at NWM would push first-half profits down to £770 million, below last year's figure.

Johnny de la Hey, a bank analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing (CLL), the broker, said profit estimates for NWM in the first half of this year, to be announced in early August, were £150 million compared with £261 million in the same period last year. The CLL forecast does not take into account the final £77 million loss attributed to the NWM interest rate options book.

Mr de la Hey, who said underlying costs at NWM were still rising by as much as 20 per cent, added: "We believe this will lead to a significant downsizing of NWM's operations."

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Last chance, page 31



Martin Owen, chief executive of NWM, has been under pressure since the discovery of derivative losses in March that led to six staff suspensions

Beckett accuses US on aviation aid

From OLIVER AUGUST IN PARIS

MARGARET BECKETT, President of the Board of Trade, said America is infringing a 1992 trade agreement with Europe and called for a response from the US Government.

She said Airbus, British Aerospace, and other European aviation companies are operating at a disadvantage because American companies receive more government aid than is allowed under the trade agreement.

Mrs Beckett ruled out a trade war over the issue but told *The Times*: "We are mindful of international trade. It is quite straightforward; trade needs to be carried out under fair competition. That's all we're asking. No more, no less." Under the agreement, governments on both sides of the Atlantic commit themselves to limiting the level of direct and indirect subsidies.

After talks with BAe and other UK aerospace companies, Mrs Beckett has come to the conclusion that the US government is assisting its aircraft makers in contravention of the agreement. She has backed the EU's strongly worded letter to the US Government.

At the Paris Air Show, she met executives from BAe, GEC, and Rolls-Royce, who are lobbying the UK Government for an extra annual £100 million aid for research and development. She said: "The message from the Government is that we recognise the prime importance of the aerospace industry. This is a market place where UK companies can compete." The Government has not made a decision on the aid, she said: "We will look at it with great care." The package is currently being assessed by the DTI and the Ministry of Defence, which are being asked by the companies to split the £100 million between them.

Commentary, page 29

British Steel joins call for higher taxes

BRITISH STEEL has joined the call for higher tax rates to dampen the economy, as opposed to interest rate rises that would bolster sterling's strength (Christine Buckley writes).

The company, which as a large exporter suffers from a soaring pound, added its voice to the Confederation of British Industry and the British Chambers of Commerce. The business groups are pressing the Chancellor for fiscal measures to calm the economy rather than monetary intervention.

British Steel suffered a £400 million cost from the high pound and weak steel prices. Believing that sterling will remain high against the mark, the company is implementing a restructuring programme that will shed thousands of jobs. It is also squeezing suppliers for price reductions in a move likely to damage and close a number of small companies.

Raise taxes, page 28

Clarke sees cut in NAO review

By PAUL DURMAN AND ANNE ASHWORTH

KENNETH CLARKE, the former Chancellor, said yesterday he believed the National Audit Office's review of the public finances will show a cut in the Government's growth forecasts for the economy.

The Treasury is set to publish the NAO report on Thursday. It has been suggested that the report will reveal a public funding gap of billions of pounds, potentially threatening Labour's election pledges.

Mr Clarke said yesterday that the suggestion that the Government would claim to have found a black hole running into billions of pounds implied the Treasury was planning to cut the assumed growth from 2½ to 2¼ per cent.

The NAO was asked to examine the assumptions that underpin the Government's financial forecasting. Mr Clarke said the NAO, which usually assesses whether the Government has got value for money on spending projects,

had no track record or expertise in this area.

The market is now expecting that Labour will announce in the Budget a 5 per cent reduction in the dividend tax credit in the

market for £1.4 billion each to 19 million people saving in pension schemes.

Their total loss from this much rumoured measure would be some £1.4 billion. This is roughly equivalent to 1 per cent increase in income tax. Other groups such as personal equity plan (Pep) holders, higher rate taxpayers and charities would be £600 million worse off. The Chancellor would gain £2 billion.

Calculations by Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant, on the impact of the 5 per cent reduction in the rate of the dividend tax credit show Pep holders would be £33 worse off.

Commentary, page 29

Railtrack on collision course with Ofrrail

By CARL MORTISHED

RAILTRACK was on a collision course with its regulator last night that could ultimately lead to intervention by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Sir Robert Horton, Railtrack's chairman, yesterday gave a flat refusal to a request for amendments to the rail licence's terms aimed at increasing its accountability to John Swift, the rail

regulator. He said that proposals for a licence amendment would lead to "more bureaucracy, second guessing of decisions and a loss of flexibility". Sir Robert was responding to a letter from Mr Swift, who two weeks ago criticised Railtrack for its low investment. Mr Swift asked it to agree to strengthen the obligations in its licence.

Mr Swift yesterday said he noted with regret that Railtrack had rejected

his proposals. He said: "I remain of the belief that it is appropriate to increase Railtrack's accountability in the way I am proposing and do not believe that it would lead to the detriment suggested by Railtrack."

There are only two ways to change Railtrack's licence: by consent between the company and the regulator or, if the company refuses, by Mr Swift referring the matter to the MMC to

determine whether the changes are in the public interest. Ofrrail, the Office of the Rail Regulator, said last night that the MMC was the final option.

Mr Swift wants to explore the matter further with Railtrack. Sir Robert said he would work with the regulator to achieve greater transparency in the company's plans and outputs.

Commentary, page 29

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JOHN CHARCOL 27

Raise taxes not interest rates, says British Steel

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH STEEL yesterday called for higher taxes to be imposed to control the economy rather than interest rate rises that may strengthen sterling further. The call followed full-year results that showed £400 million of damage to profits from the pound and weak European steel prices.

Further damage is expected to show in the current half-year as the full effect of the rise in sterling feeds through. Sir Brian Moffat, chairman and chief executive, said: "I would prefer higher taxes to higher interest rates... there have got to be some fiscal measures brought to bear to balance the thing out."

The company has pressed its case in a submission to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who delivers the Budget next month. Although exchange rates and European steel prices are linked, as they are market-determined, it is thought that the pure effect of the UK's strong currency dealt a £100 million blow to the company.

British Steel is in the throes of a huge restructuring to counter the effects of the strong pound, which hits the company substantially because it is a heavy exporter. Last year it cut 1,500 jobs while this year the toll is likely to be more than 2,000. More than 10,000 are expected to go in a five-year programme.

Jobs and businesses will

also be on the line in the 2,000 or so companies that supply British Steel. The company is in talks with its suppliers to squeeze their prices by what is thought to be more than 10 per cent as it drives to cut its costs across the business. Many small companies that act as local suppliers to British Steel's four main plants are dependent on the company for their livelihood.

Sir Brian underlined British Steel's commitment to step up production overseas where costs are cheaper but he said the company had no intention of scaling down operations in the UK. He said he wanted to see international production deliver 25 per cent of sales within five years. At present operating and planned plants account for about 11 per cent of revenue.

In the year to March 31, British Steel's pre-tax profits more than halved to £451 million from £1.1 billion. Avesta, the Swedish stainless steel subsidiary, proved a large drain on profits incurring a loss of £1 million last year against a £228 million profit in the previous year after delayed commissioning and rationalisation costs. British Steel took over Avesta as a 51 per cent subsidiary in November 1995.

The dividend was held at 10p for the year with a final payment of 7p due August 11.

Tempus, page 30



Industrial beauty: Harry Platt, managing director of London Industrial, left, with Alan Porter, chairman, lifted pre-tax profit by 16 per cent to £4.8 million in the year to March 31. Earnings rose 16 per cent to 24.7p and the total dividend rises 15 per cent to 15p. The company's net asset value rose 21 per cent to £4.17 a share. The shares rose 7p to 39.5p

Think-tank in jobs criticism

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

NEW jobs in Britain for the unemployed are bad jobs, according to an independent employment study today.

The report says Labour's welfare to work programme will have to improve on the poor performance of previous government schemes.

A new analysis today from the independent Employment Policy Institute, a jobs think-tank with links to Labour,

shows that, though the number of professional and managerial jobs is growing, the jobs being taken by unemployed people are predominantly low grade, low status, low paid and low security.

John Philpott, EPI director, says that Britain's structural problems of joblessness are deep-seated: "Shifting workless families and the hidden unemployed into jobs will cost

money, take time and require persistence, patience and political will."

The research was carried out for the EPI by Paul Gregg and Jonathan Wadsworth of the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics.

□ *Employment Audit, Summer 1997, EPI, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London SE1. By subscription.*

John Philpott, EPI director, says that Britain's structural problems of joblessness are deep-seated: "Shifting workless families and the hidden unemployed into jobs will cost

money, take time and require persistence, patience and political will."

Mr Robb, 61, is expected to remain as chairman for 18 months to two years. The board is understood to have told Mr Hawley, 60, that it wanted someone younger as chairman to take the company forward.

British Energy said that Mr Hawley would be pursuing "other interests".

Tempus, page 30

Exclusive Sunday Times reader offer FREE SLAZENGER TENNIS BALLS



The Sunday Times, with Slazenger, is giving away 15,000 three-ball tubes of exclusive Wimbledon Hi-Vis tennis balls. The tubes are worth £5.99 each.

Slazenger has been Wimbledon's sole supplier of tennis balls since 1902 and the Hi-Vis ball has been hand tested to the LTA's exacting standards for pressure, appearance and bounce. It contains high levels of fluorescent dye to give players such as Tim Henman, above, that split second longer to react and allows audiences a clearer view of the action.

If you collected the token which appeared with a voucher in the Style section of The Sunday Times yesterday, simply collect the second token from Style next Sunday and three differently numbered tokens from The Times, one of which must be from the Wimbledon supplement appearing on Monday June 23. Tokens will appear in The Times each day this week. Attach all five tokens to the voucher, and present it at a Sports Division store before July 5. You will receive a free tube of three Hi-Vis balls, subject to stock availability at the time of your visit. To find your local Sports Division store call 0800 146 542.



Peer wins control of Finnish sports group

BY JON ASHWORTH

LORD MOYNE, better-known as Jonathan Guinness, sometime writer and merchant banker, has clinched control of Amer, a Finnish sporting goods group, which sells Wilson golf equipment and tennis rackets.

The peer is paying FM301 million (£35 million) for a majority stake, and is likely to become chairman. Separately, he is paying SKr250m (£20 million) for a controlling interest in Tristor, a Swedish investment company with of

fices in London. The peer, 67, has adopted a low corporate profile since 1988 when he resigned as a non-executive director of Guinness after 27 years. He was a director of Leopold Joseph, the merchant bank, from 1964 to 1991.

Educated at Eton and Oxford, he did a three-year stint with Reuters in the early 1950s. He once stood for Parliament when he suggested that razor blades should be placed in the cells of convicted murderers.

CALPers tightens director test

BY JASON NISSE

CALPers, the giant California state pension fund, is to bring in a new, stricter code of corporate governance to bolster its affirmative action campaign on leading companies.

The code is aimed at strengthening the role of non-executive directors by giving a tougher definition of when a director is considered independent. There will be ten pointers to when a director is independent and the fund, with \$113 billion under management, will vote against so-called independent directors who do not meet the test.

CALPers has recently attacked underperforming US companies such as Apple and Reebok. Kayla Gillen, CALPers' general counsel, thought the majority of the 300 companies that the group monitors closely do not meet its new performance criteria.

Confidence eases in commercial property

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GROWTH in Britain's commercial property market is slackening, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

Commercial property confidence remains positive, though it is easing back, according to the CBI's latest survey carried out with Grimsey, the international property advisers.

A net balance of 1 per cent of 564 companies surveyed plan to increase their property holdings over the next six

months, the survey shows. This compares with a positive balance of 6 per cent in January. The largest increases in property are expected to be among smaller companies, while larger firms expect to reduce their holdings by the end of the year.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate director of economic analysis, said: "The slightly lower confidence in the commercial property market reflects the less buoyant overall optimism of companies."

Sainsbury's to open all night

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

J SAINSBURY will introduce all-night shopping in 25 of its biggest supermarkets from the end of this month.

The stores, ten of which are in London with the rest in cities and large towns around the country, will stay open continuously from 8am on Friday to 10pm on Saturday, starting on June 27.

The move follows a lengthy trial in several of its stores around the country. Other supermarkets, including Asda, Safeway and Tesco, have also been experimenting with all-night shopping, which is widespread in the US.

Sainsbury's, which is chaired by David Sainsbury, said that over 50 per cent of the grocery shoppers it has interviewed in the past few months said they favoured 24-hour shopping, with over half of these preferring to shop late on Fridays.

Kevin McCarten, marketing director, said: "Many of our customers vary their shopping patterns for a number of reasons, but our research shows that most late-night shoppers are single men and shift workers, who prefer to shop late at the end of the week."

The province estimates that it spends C\$300 million (£130 million) a year on treating smoking-related illnesses.

Tobacco attacked in Canada

BY JASON NISSE

A CANADIAN province has paved the way for litigation against tobacco companies to recoup medical costs, the first time that this action has been taken outside the US.

In the US, leading cigarette makers — including BAT Industries — are in talks with the Government about a \$30 billion deal to settle tobacco litigation pending in 37 states.

Yesterday, British Columbia said it will bring in a law to allow similar legal actions in the Canadian province. However its government said that it would first ask tobacco companies to offer a voluntary payment and to admit that cigarettes were addictive and caused cancer, lung disease and heart disease.

The province estimates that it spends C\$300 million (£130 million) a year on treating smoking-related illnesses.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Abbey confirms Cater Allen talks

ABBEY NATIONAL confirmed yesterday that it is in talks to buy Cater Allen, the financial services group. Cater Allen's share price has risen sharply since it announced on June 5 that it was in talks with an anonymous potential bidder. Yesterday it closed at 547.5p, having fallen slightly from 550p. Abbey National fell from 895.5p to 885p amid a general fall in the banking sector.

Cater Allen's activities used to revolve around its role as a discount house acting as an intermediary for the Bank of England in the money markets. They now include banking, with profitable offshore operations in Jersey and the Isle of Man. It also owns an execution-only stockbroking service and Aitken Campbell, the Glasgow broker, as well as managing several funds. Analysts yesterday forecast a price of £200 million. Cater Allen has a market capitalisation of about £170 million. The deal would be part of a broad ongoing shift away from traditional savings and mortgages operations at Abbey National.

US telecoms takeover

MCLEODUSA has agreed to buy Consolidated Communications, a telecommunications holding company, in a deal valued at about \$420 million. McLeodUSA, based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, provides telecommunications services and competes with regional Baby Bell companies and GTE Corp. McLeodUSA Inc. would have about 200,000 local lines, 4,000 employees and 3,700 miles of fibre-optic lines in a 14-state region, and publish 12 million phone directories a year.

Upgrading by brewery

WOLVERHAMPTON & DUDLEY BREWERIES is "radically upgrading" its draught lager portfolio to provide consumers and trade customers with a wider choice of leading brands. The upgrade will cost £2.6 million over four years. The changes will significantly improve the company's competitive position in retail and wholesale markets. The range includes Foster's and Heineken cold filtered. The two brands will replace Harp, Wolverhampton's standard lager since the 1960s.

LSB edges ahead

LONDON SCOTTISH BANK raised pre-tax profits 0.1 per cent to £4.3 million in the six months to April 30. The half-year dividend rises 14.7 per cent to 9.75p out of earnings static at 2.6p. The board said the debt collection and reinsurance division's operating profits continue to grow. Consumer credit profits rose 41 per cent to £1.7 million and debt collection rose 32 per cent to £1.4 million. Reinsurance rose 27 per cent to £1.2 million.

New link for Ireland

THE Republic of Ireland's rail network will form the backbone of a second communications system, under a joint venture between CIE, the state-owned transport group, and Esat Telecom, the communications company. The agreement involves the laying of a fibre optic network under the existing rail system. The new network will be allowed to service only businesses until 2000 when the state-controlled Telecom Eireann is due to give up its monopoly on residential services.

London Bridge talks

SHARES in London Bridge Software rose 12p to 332.5p after the group said it was in talks on a "significant" acquisition that was likely to be funded by a rights issue. The computer software and services group promised that a further announcement would be made by July 4. London Bridge gave an indication of the size of the deal by indicating that the acquisition would be classified as super class one. At last night's closing price London Bridge is worth £75 million.

PowerGen venture

POWERGEN furthered its international expansion yesterday by securing a long-term power deal in Hungary which will lead to the development of a £160 million power plant. A subsidiary of PowerGen in Budapest has struck an agreement with the Hungarian state electricity supply operation to supply power for 20 years. The new plant, which will be built next to a station already owned by PowerGen, will come on stream in the millennium.

Celtic hand-out fear

CELTIC ENERGY, the producer of anthracite coal, has warned of job losses because of subsidies given to German mining companies. Celtic is lobbying Europe and the Government over subsidies offered by the German Government. Keith McNair, chief executive, said: "We are facing unfair competition from Germany, where two leading anthracite producers have had... subsidies of over £100 million. They are able to sell their coal at well below cost prices."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Boys	Bank Girls	Bank Sells	Bank Boys	Bank Girls	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.25	2.12	2.06	0.663	0.655	0.655
Austria Sch	20.80	20.50	20.50	3.20	3.15	3.15
Belgium Fr	61.31	56.57	56.57	2.52	2.52	2.50
Canada \$	2.375	2.200	2.200	11.61	11.61	11.61
Chilean Pte	0.989	0.914	0.914	278.60	278.60	278.60
Commerce Mk	11.31	9.49	9.49	4.05	4.05	4.05
Finland Mark	8.95	8.23	8.23	249.50	249.50	249.50
France Fr	9.97	9.22	9.22	13.42	12.58	12.58
Germany Dm	2.05	1.92	1.92	2.10	2.00	2.00
Greece Dr	4.73	4.38	4.38	12.27	12.27	12.27
Hong Kong \$	13.40	12.27	12.27	247.94	222.05	222.05
Iceland Pr	1.27	1.07	1.07	1.73	1.73	1.73
Israel Shek	5.90	5.25	5.25	271.00	271.00	271.00
Italy Lira	2,940	2,718	2,718	1,735	1,735	1,735
Japan Yen	199.70	183.20	183.20			

Returns for small denomination bank notes only are supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different

NatWest is having a bad run. Down £90 million on dodgy derivatives trading, spurned by Abbey National and the current whipping boy of the stock market, the bank has had a bruising time. But with a determination to think positive, Derek Wanless, chief executive, yesterday trumpeted the creation of a new Investment Banking Group for Europe.

Sadly, this development was rapidly eclipsed by the more headline-grabbing news of the departure of Martin Owen. A few lessons from the Mandelson school of news management might prove beneficial at NatWest.

The European move shows determination to find a *raison d'être* for the business that Lord Alexander of Weeden and his cheque book have been assembling. The idea is to make NatWest a force in corporate finance, with George Magan and Alton Irby as joint chief executives. NatWest markets has the expensive corporate finance fire power, and the bank has the corporate clients, the sort of synergy that M&A brokers earn fat fees to point out. But it has not yet produced the deal flow.

If the new structure fails to drum up business, there could soon be a more dramatic restructuring of NatWest than Mr Owen's departure heralds.

When £90 million goes missing, someone has to be held responsible. In NatWest's case, it

had to be Mr Owen. The chief executive of NatWest Markets had already gallantly volunteered to hand back £200,000 of his £500,000 bonus but, while he may have felt that he was getting 60 per cent of his job right, the other 40 per cent mattered too.

Mr Owen's management looks to have been lax. If he did not know what was going on in the gambling den of the dealing room, she should have done, or at least had systems in place which would have picked up the problem sooner: the intimations from NatWest are that the exciting approach to derivatives trading was not a momentary aberration.

Now there will be platitudes about tightening up on compliance and risk, but all will be meaningless unless NatWest can find the right person to replace Mr Owen, and quickly. One can hardly believe that Derek Wanless was under-employed until yesterday, so his taking on direct responsibility for NatWest markets can only be for a brief period.

What is now required, to give the right message both internally and externally, is someone who is tough on compliance, tough on the right person to replace Mr Owen, and quickly. One can hardly believe that Derek Wanless was under-employed until yesterday, so his taking on direct responsibility for NatWest markets can only be for a brief period.

There can be few people with the right experience who cur-

rently find themselves at a loose end, but NatWest has the headhunters on their trail.

The problems of policing trade in the City cannot be overestimated and even the most sophisticated systems cannot contend with every rule that a rogue trader may employ. But banks are beginning to realise that they need to invest more in the systems and the people to do the job. Mr Owen's successor will not come cheap.

Political look at a black hole

Prepare to be appalled. A black hole totalling billions of pounds has suddenly appeared in the public finances — or so say sources who have a good record of being close to the Labour spin doctors. The National Audit Office has looked at the state of the nation's books, and did not like what it read

NatWest's credit overdrawn

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

there. For confirmation of this analysis, we have only to wait until publication of the NAO report on Thursday, although it already looks tediously predictable. When Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, was forced on to the back foot last week, he immediately sought to use the worse-than-expected financial "crisis" he had found in the NHS as the justification for considering a new range of charges. Gordon Brown may be about to offer us more of the same.

Far from marking a new openness in public finance, the whole NAO exercise looks depressingly political. Within its narrow terms of reference, the most important topic considered by the NAO was the Government's assumption about the trend for economic growth. Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, says this is the only area that can throw up the missing "billions" that might reconcile the public to the need

for tax rises. Mr Clarke's last set of Budget arithmetic benefited from his revision of the long-term trend from 2½ to 2¾ per cent.

Whether or not this is correct is

frankly unknowable. Economists can debate the point endlessly,

but it will eventually come down to a matter of opinion, a political judgment.

The irony is, if Mr Brown and his team have persuaded the NAO that 2¼ per cent

is the more appropriate assumption, such a move would contradict the professed benefits of Labour's economic management.

Similarly, it would be very odd

for Labour to overturn Mr

Clarke's assumption that un-

employment will fall. The pre-

vious assumption of level un-

employment was simply a

political convenience that

allowed past administrations to

avoid owing up to teared reality

of rising numbers of jobless.

More suspect than the growth

assumptions were Mr Clarke's forecasts of the growth in govern- ment spending. The last Red Book projected history-beating growth of substantially less than 1 per cent over each of the next three years. With the new Gov- ernment facing so many demands from its supporters, this will prove Labour's most im- portant test.

Folly to axe dividend relief

There is no such thing as a cost-free tax. Gordon Brown will soon discover that if the Treasury manages to persuade him to slash tax relief on dividends for pension funds, it is trailing on the politically correct but mistaken ground that it would encourage a switch from dividends to investment.

There is no cash constraint on most quoted companies investing more. But the cost of pensions is a major constraint on employment. It would jump dramatically if returns to company contributions are cut.

For savers in money purchase schemes, a cut in dividend re-

turns will simply cut future

pensions, because it will cut

share prices. That is because most final salary schemes are valued actuarially on the present value of future dividends, so that axing relief makes both shares and funds worth less.

That is inconvenient for Chan-

celors and might be challenged

by companies. But trustees, who

have been both empowered and

burdened by the Pensions Act

1995, would surely not go along.

Many funds will therefore lose

surpluses, forcing companies to

resume or raise contributions,

thereby cutting the net Revenue

gain. In many more, funds will

become technically insolvent

under the Act's new tests. Com-

panies would have to inject

capital, attracting relief that

might well eliminate most extra

tax revenue for years.

That should dissuade the Chancellor. But it may take howls from charities, the other main losers, to put him right.

Oh-ah Pierson

JEAN PIERSON, managing director of Airbus, is giving every indication of being the aerospace industry's answer to Eric Cantona. At the Paris air show he has been throwing round the insults, accusing directors of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas of criminal conspiracy. He went on to attack the exclusivity deals that are crucial to an industry where every development requires huge investment. When Airbus needs friends, M Pierson is creating enemies.

Warning on sterling hits Psion launch

BY ADAM JONES

SHARES in Psion, the handheld computer maker, dropped by almost a fifth yesterday after a negative trading statement clouded the launch of its most sophisticated product so far.

Psion gave warning that performance is being hit by the strength of sterling, and a drop in orders for its established products in anticipation of the state-of-the-art series 5 computer's introduction.

David Potter, Psion founder and chairman, said sales of the series 3 range had slowed in May and June, and that sales of its Siena pocket computer were disappointing. "The performance of the group will be affected until the series 5 becomes established."

Psion has more than half of its sales overseas by turnover, leaving it vulnerable to the strong pound. The shares started the day at 505p but closed at 407½p. One analyst dropped profit forecasts from £22 million to £16.5 million before tax. Psion made £16 million pre-tax profits last year.

The series 5 personal organiser offers Internet access, an e-mail facility, compatibility with Windows 95, a dictaphone, an improved keyboard and a touch-sensitive screen. In the United Kingdom, it will sell for £440 to £500. The company hopes to be selling 40,000 units a month by October.

The series 5 and its new 32-bit operating system cost more than £25 million to develop.

The operating system has already been licensed to an unnamed electronics manufacturer, not thought to be a direct competitor in the handheld computing market, with other deals in the pipeline. Licensing income is expected to make a material impact on profits in 1998-99. The Series 5 is expected to contribute 40-50 per cent of annual turnover by next year.

The new range faces competition from rivals using Microsoft's new operating system for handheld computers, Windows CE.

Tempus, page 30

Reshuffle at Tring is voted down

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHAREHOLDERS in Tring International yesterday voted down an attempt to unseat the budget music company's board.

Mark Frey, a co-founder of the business and school friend of Philip Robinson, the chief executive, requested yesterday's extraordinary meeting after teaming up with Jay Chernow, a large shareholder. Between them they own about 20 per cent of the company.

However, the shareholders voted almost two to one against putting Mr Frey on the board and four to one against removing Mr Robinson. Mr Frey, a former joint chief executive, resigned from the company in 1995 after disagreeing with his old school friend about strategy.

Tring's market value has, for years, been depressed by the huge cost of settling asbestos liabilities, capped last year by insurance.

Robert Speed, a Henderson

Crosthwaite analyst, said a bid

would have to be £1 or so over

the current share price. The stock had been "mispriced".

£100 10

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STOCK MARKET



CLARE STEWART

Worries on windfall tax overshadow NU debut

PRE-BUDGET blues set in yesterday, ending the recent strong run seen by the stock market. And windfall tax worries rather than windfall gains cheer contributed to the more cautious tone, overshadowing the debut of **Norwich Union**.

Speculation that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is set to abolish the 20 per cent tax credit on dividends in his Budget on July 2 left blue-chip stocks nursing falls across the board as profit-takers moved in and nearly £8 billion was wiped off share values.

The FTSE 100 index sank more than 47 points at its worst, but recovered some ground after Wall Street opened in quieter mood. By the close the FTSE stood at 3745.1, down 38 points.

Concern over the impact of a windfall tax hit Railtrack. It fell 30½ p to 624½ p on fears that it might be one of the hardest hit among the privatised groups when details of the tax are announced. Severn Trent, the water group, was also squeezed as its shares fell 20½ p to 740p.

Property groups were dull on worries that stamp duty might be increased in the Budget. British Land ended 8½ p lower at 574½ p, while Hammerson closed 9½ p down at 480p.

Norwich Union made its debut at 350p, in line with broad expectations. The shares climbed to a trading high of 357½ p before sliding back to close at 324½ p – a premium of 34½ p to the 290p opening price.

About 150 million shares changed hands, boosting the market's overall trading volumes. Other insurers were left on the shelf in the scramble for Norwich Union, with the Prudential down 21½ p to 615p.

NatWest Bank had a switchback ride, having been spurred to a high of 80½ p, up 25p in morning trading, as rumours of a shake-up in its investment arm and takeover talk resurfaced. Later in the day came the news of Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, and a surprise profits warning. NWM profits are expected to be significantly lower than last year, at about £770 million. NatWest Bank shares retreated as brokers marked down forecasts. They closed 41½ p lower at 755p. Other banks losing ground included Barclays, down 36½ p to 132½ p, and Lloyds TSB, off



Norwich Union executives including Allan Bridgewater, chief executive, right, monitor early morning trading in their newly issued shares on the floor of Kleinwort Benson

Up to 626½ p, Abbey National ended 27½ p lower at 868p after confirming it was in talks with Ceter Allen Holdings, the merchant bank, which ended at 547½ p, down 25p.

British Steel ended 4½ p lower at 158½ p after announcing a fall in pre-tax profits to £451 million, reflecting the impact of sterling's strength.

BSG edged up 2p to 217½ p ahead of clarification of the long-running saga over Transco and its pricing. A report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is due this week.

British Energy fell 12½ p to 145½ p. The group, which went ex-dividend yesterday, also announced the departure of

Robert Hawley as chief executive. Among the power groups, Energy Group, the recipient of a £3.6 billion bid from Pacificorp of America, saw its shares ease 5p to 641p.

Rolls-Royce slipped 14p to 254½ p, in spite of the promise of new orders from the Paris Air Show. Vickers rose 2p to 218p after a broker's note.

Second-liners proved more buoyant in the unsettled conditions. T&G, the engineering and auto components group, rose to 159p. A more positive broker's note and speculation that a £1 billion bid from the US was in the offing gave the former asbestos producer a boost. The company's price has been on the slide since peaking at 190p last year and dealers say that it looks exposed to a takeover approach.

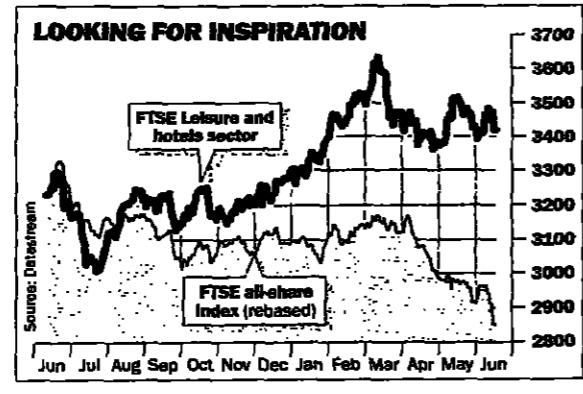
WS Atkins was among stocks recovering ground after recent weakness, moving up 22p to 278½ p, while BTR, which recently hit a low of 180p, added 25p to 191½ p. Retailers found support, with MFI, the furnishing group, moving up 3p to 135p, on talk of windfall-happy consumers splashing out.

Burton, which saw heavy trading last week, rose 3p to 131½ p, while Country Casuals rose 1p to 130½ p on renewed bid speculation. Alexion, the latest name in the frame, was 2p lower at 200p. Marks & Spencer put on 1p to 535p. Dealings in the shares yesterday included the exercise of an option by Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman. He sold 87,000 shares at 530p, netting a profit of £424,000.

Pson, the computer group, fell to 407½ p, from 505p. The launch of the Series 5, a new product, came with a warning that sales growth had slowed, prompting analysts to cut forecasts.

GILT-EDGED: The gilt market was quiet, but the index-linked sector was more buoyant on the expectation that more investors would switch out of equities if the dividend tax credit were abolished. In futures, the September series of the long gilt ended up 19½ p at £1141½ p on volume of 33,000. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 ended up 12½ p to £103½ p, while in longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 moved up 10½ p to £109½ p.

□ NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average fell slightly as investors took profits. At midday, the index was down 2.26 points at 7743.30.



Source: Datastream

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

FTSE Leisure and hotel sector

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Last chance for NatWest's global dream

Robert Miller looks at the woes afflicting the clearer's investment banking arm — and its fightback strategy

At two o'clock yesterday, NatWest's head office in the City announced that Martin Owen, the beleaguered head of NatWest Markets, the clearer's investment banking arm, had resigned.

Ever since Mr Owen had to admit, in March, that a £90 million black hole had been discovered in its interest rate options book, there had been speculation about what the bank could do to turn around the fortunes of NatWest Markets, whose profits will show a sharp fall this year from the £462 million it made in 1996.

So did Derek Wanless, NatWest chief executive, and Lord Alexander of Weedon, NatWest chairman, lose patience with Mr Owen? Or does yesterday's departure signal the end of NatWest's ambitions to build a genuinely global investment bank to rival top players such as Merrill Lynch, which encompasses the old Smith New Court, and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, SBC Warburg, UBS and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell? Certain of these firms have had their own well-publicised problems.

Even closer to home, BZW, the

investment banking arm of Barclays, saw profits plunge last year by £85 million to £204 million. This fall was almost entirely due to the recruitment of expensive senior staff, including that of Bill Harrison, BZW's chief executive from Robert Fleming, and the inevitable redundancies that followed. The similarity between BZW and NatWest Markets is that both have only in recent years emerged in their current shapes and that both have failed to give shareholders a reasonable return on capital injected into them by their parent banks. The difference is that Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays Bank, has already acted to turn BZW into a genuinely global investment bank. It is a high-risk strategy and one that is not guaranteed to succeed. However, Mr Taylor has at least now established a clear vision of where he would like BZW to be. NatWest has

yet to reach this clarity in corporate thinking.

The Owen resignation at NatWest, already embarrassed at having to announce the £90 million black hole only days after unveiling annual profits of £1.1 billion, had been under discussion for some time. Initially, Mr Owen enjoyed strong backing from Mr Wanless. It appeared that NatWest Markets had been the victim of poor management and risk supervision in the interest-rate options division, a relatively small part of the business. As a clear sign that he was prepared to accept responsibility, in that he headed the firm, Mr Owen agreed to hand back £200,000 of a £500,000 annual bonus. This gesture, however, was criticised by many, and some not far from the Bank of England, as being too little too late.

Results of the NatWest Markets inquiry into the derivatives losses will

be published in part by the end of this month, and will be passed in their entirety to the Bank of England and the Securities and Futures Authority. As the inquiry continued, it became clear that a lack of risk controls and proper management was not limited to derivatives activities. As a result, a review of the whole of NatWest Markets was launched. This is expected to discard certain geographical parts of the investment banking empire, and business with low profit margins, such as "big-ticket lending" to corporations, and to introduce far tighter risk and credit controls.

NatWest has taken private soundings around the City as to how NatWest Markets was viewed. The answer appears to have been that the first step to restore credibility was that Mr Owen had to go. His personal integrity has never been in doubt, but, in the all-important terms

of market and business perception, his position had become untenable.

The next step, and this is likely to emerge from the business strategy review, is to define more clearly the roles of the very diverse businesses acquired by NatWest Markets. These include Gleicher, the US mergers and acquisitions firm, bought in October 1995 for \$135 million. Greenwich Capital, another US company, bought last year for \$90 million, and JO Hambo Magan, the UK corporate finance specialist. The latter acquisition may eventually cost up to £150 million after 120 staff of the newly merged entity were locked in with reported £1 million "golden handcuffs". NatWest also acquired Cartmore, the highly rated fund manager, last year for £472 million.

Mr Wanless last night insisted that NatWest is as committed to its investment banking arm as it ever was. He has assumed control for now, a move that will give some comfort to the market and shareholders. Nevertheless, this is truly the last chance for NatWest Markets and the global ambitions of its parent.

it, but they are not forced to do so by capital constraints.

And the Treasury? The Scottish companies have debts of more than £1 billion on the State's books. Those are given away with the assets. That would not leave the companies overgeared.

It would refinance the debt and repay the Treasury. On the conventions governing British public finance, that would work like a privatisation — cash coming in is treated as revenue. Hey presto, £1 billion off the PSBR.

Where else would this work? What about London Underground? When you buy a ticket, pay a pound extra to be a member. Then you get a vote. The elected board appoints management to run the company in the customers' interest. At last we may get enough investment. Again, the Treasury shuns some debt.

The quest for profit

makes companies efficient and is best for customers too — if there is competition. If not, that quest can be at customers' expense. In spite of a regulator, if the product market is a monopoly but the capital market is competitive, the customer can be exploited, but the investor cannot be doddled — or not more than once — because all companies must pay market rates on their capital. Those market structures mean you should vest control with the customer, not the investor. Mutualisation is then fairer and more efficient. It is also likely to be better than state control, which too often leads to political games. Indeed, political games get played even with privately regulated industries.

Will customers keep an eye on the company, or be apathetic, letting it become inefficient? There are always risks of sleepiness in a monopoly, however governed, but the difference from a building society is clear. If you don't like one society, you just move society. The fact that Scots water users are stuck with the company will make the vote valuable. In particular, other firms with commercial exposure to the water company can ensure their views are taken into account. In the US, electricity mutuals exist — and are as efficient as PLCs.

GERALD HOLTHAM
Director, Institute for
Public Policy Research

Let mutuality be the power behind the tap and the Tube

Sometimes relief comes from an unexpected source. Most people think government borrowing is too high, but the PSBR could be cut — by mutuality. It seems passé. Mutuality is losing ground in the financial sector. Remaining building societies can legitimately claim to offer finer terms without shareholders to worry about, but that will not help them if members can cash in reserves built by present and past members.

There is, however, another sector of the economy waiting to be opened up to mutuality — to the benefit of consumers and the public purse. Indeed, there is a potential bonanza for the Treasury nearly as good, in its way, as privatisation was.

The idea is to mutualise monopoly public services that carry a lot of debt. The obvious place to start is the Scottish water companies. These remain in public ownership, and Labour's manifesto promise to keep them under "democratic control" rules out privatisation. Meanwhile, the companies, hamstrung by public borrowing restrictions, are desperately short of capital for infrastructure. They also fear political interference with pricing. The only solution on offer is the dread PFI or private finance initiative. They have to contract out parts of the business to attract in private capital.

Unfortunately, it makes engineering and commercial sense to keep a water operation vertically integrated. No English water company, so far as I know, has contracted out big chunks of the business, though they would presumably have done so if it made sense. Piecemeal, unregulated privatisation, based on expensive capital, is what PFI offers.

There is a better way. Anyone receiving a water bill becomes a member, with a vote for the board. The board can appoint management and incentivise it to hit consumer-oriented targets. They could even franchise management to another water company if that gave customers the best deal. In other words, make the companies mutuals. That solves all problems. Everyone uses water, so the companies remain subject to democratic control; they are outside the PSBR and can borrow what they need to invest. If it makes sense to contract out operations, they can still do

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SORRY"?

plaintiff n. 1 common domestic argument (*it's your turn to wash up; what time do you call this?* etc) 2 a person who brings a case against another in court.

tort n. 1 an upmarket pastry case containing lemon, jam etc. (attrib) BBC English 2 a civil wrong other than under contract or equity.

sue n. & v. 1 that Lawley presenter on television 2 term for legal proceedings against a person (usu. foll. by *parts off*).

dispute n. 1 a matter for litigation 2 no it's not 3 oh yes it is 4 I'll see you in court.

lawsuit n. 1 usu. of pinstripe variety 2 corporate nightmare which requires the best possible defence.

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Windfalls drive billion-pound demand for package holidays

Tour operators benefit as 'feel-good' factor grows, Marianne Curphey says

Tour operators are preparing for their business summer for five years. Britons are expected to spend between £1 billion and £3 billion of the free shares windfalls from building society conversions on package holidays.

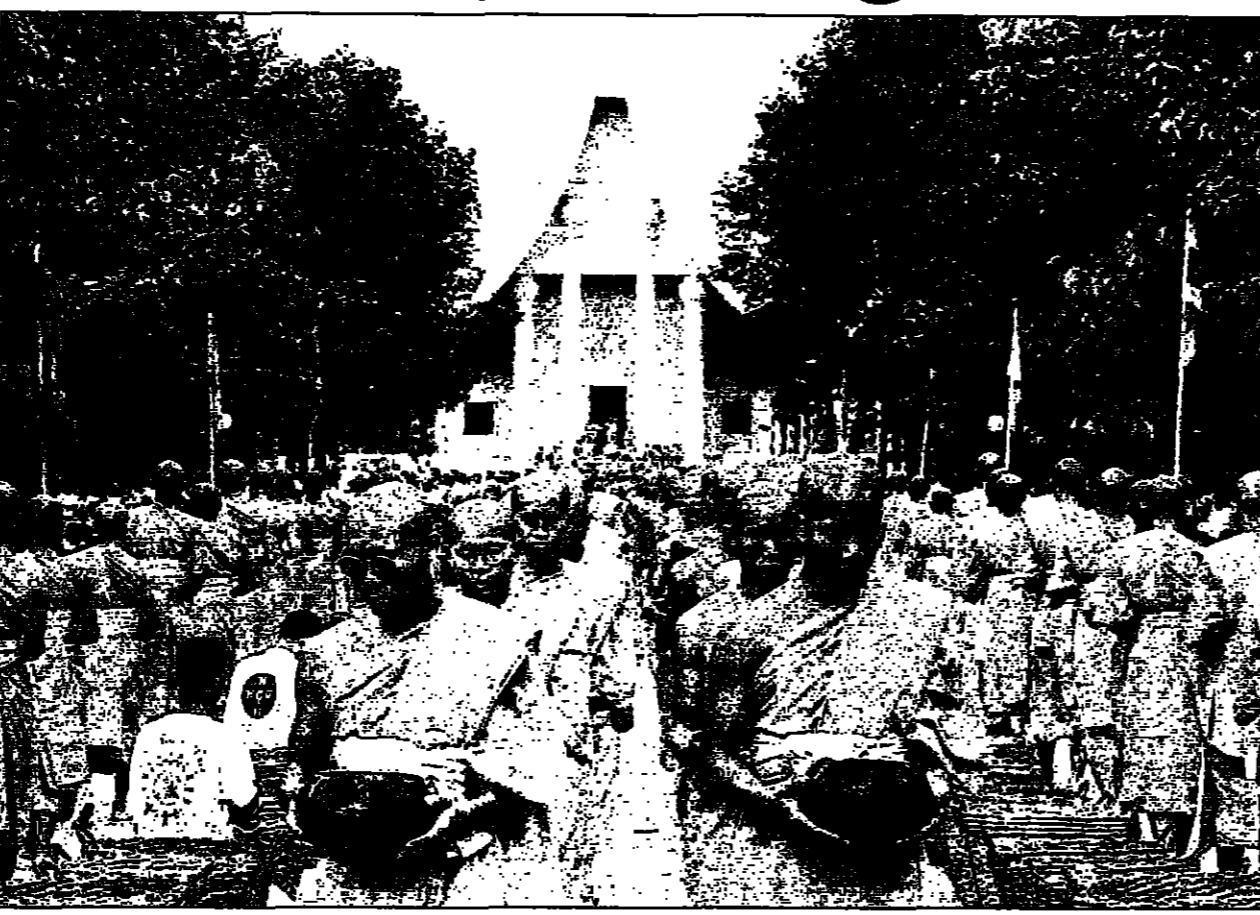
Demand for holidays has been fuelled by increasing consumer confidence, better employment figures, a strong economy and the windfall bonuses. Not only are tour operators selling more holidays, they are achieving sales closer to brochure prices, which means that margins have improved.

Thomson Holidays, the market leader, says that bookings are up 4 per cent on last year and are expected to rise a further 10 per cent next year as the conversions of Woolwich and Northern Rock are completed this summer.

Russell Amerasekera, communications director of Thomson, said: "We are expecting a total of 8.8 million people to take a holiday this year, with many of them upgrading from the usual two weeks in Spain to a trip of a lifetime for the family in Florida. We are seeing couples splashing out on Caribbean cruises and trips to the Far East."

Research by independent analysts has suggested that 1.5 million people will be spending at least £1,000 of their windfall on a foreign holiday. Many of these will be paying the full price to secure the resort and hotel of their choice, rather than waiting for end-of-season discounts.

Tour operators are also selling more packages to exotic destinations and all-inclusive hotels — a sector usually reserved for customers buying the top range of breaks. Among those fuelling the



Buddhist monks taking part in an alms ceremony in Thailand, a popular holiday destination for windfall-spenders

boom are customers who are up to £10,000 richer following the flotation of the Halifax and Alliance & Leicester building societies. Tours to Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore are among the most popular destinations.

The implications of the "feel-good" factor driving consumer spending and, incidentally, the property market, has not been lost on the City. Shares in Airtours, one of the biggest players in the industry, have risen more than £2 in a month and closed just below their 12-month high of £11.80 yesterday.

First Choice, the third-largest operator, has seen its shares double in 12 months, rising from a low of 51p last July to close at 104p yesterday.

Airtours' rise has been extraordinary. It has been one of the strongest shares in the FTSE 100 index. It is 29 per cent owned by Carnival Corporation, the biggest cruise operator in the world. Carnival bought 20 million shares

in Airtours at 450p, and 20 million at 500p last summer, and is expected to make a full bid for the UK operator in a few years. In the interim, Airtours' success in the domestic and Scandinavian markets has made it a darling of the Square Mile.

David Crossland, chairman of Airtours, was bullish last month when he presented the company's interim. The City is waiting for confirmation of the good news when First Choice Holidays, under Peter Long, its new chief executive, reports its six-month figures on Thursday of next week.

BZW has upgraded its full-year pre-tax profit estimate for Airtours from £105 million to £110 million and from £120 million to £130 million for the full year in 1998.

Merrill Lynch has also upgraded its full-year estimate for Airtours from £110 million to £120 million this year, and from £122 million to £148 million next year. This compares with the 12-month result

for Airtours in 1996 of £86.6 million. For First Choice's interim next week, Merrill Lynch has pencilled in a £23.5 million loss, broadly comparable with the same period last year. Holiday companies traditionally make a loss or a very small profit in the first six months of the year since 70 per cent of their profit is made in the peak months of July and August. Both Airtours and First Choice have been trying to balance this by building up their winter and overseas programmes.

For the full year, Merrill Lynch is estimating a £23.5 million profit for First Choice compared with a £9.3 million profit last year, and £30 million earlier than usual. Mr Amerasekera said: "Our booking patterns have shown that there are large numbers of people willing to commit themselves to next year's holiday before they have taken this year's. Our bookings for this summer are 12 per cent up and for summer 1998 the booking levels are healthy."

Wayne Sanderson, leisure analyst with Merrill Lynch, believes that despite "patchy" sales for June, bookings for July and August are likely to be strong. He also predicts that the current strength of sterling will give the holiday companies an extra boost next year. "At present the pound is strong and that is good for consumers who feel happier about going abroad, but it is of no benefit for the tour operators who negotiated bed rates way back last June when sterling was weaker," Mr Sanderson said.

This year, though, the pound has risen 19 per cent against the Spanish peseta.

Consultants who kitted out the emperor with his new wardrobe should get hold of a copy of the brochure for the Ashridge Masters Degree course in Organization (sic) Consulting, £15,000 a time, plus VAT, two years part-time. During which students will attend workshops to review their current consulting practice in order to "clarify the underlying metaphors, values and epistemology of their work and to share this with other participants". They also get to "practise various inquiry methodologies, examine the congruency of their espoused and enacted values and beliefs, and enhance" — oh, I can't bear any more, but I suppose they exit the course with the ability to spout such corporate gibberish to unsuspecting clients. And earn a hundred times the salary of the average nurse.

Sound move

THE rumour so often denied by Sir Tim Bell is that Chime Communications, his public relations company, is eager to buy M&S Saatchi, controlled by his old friend Maurice Saatchi, now Lord Saatchi, and brother Charles. This is news to Lord Saatchi too. Yesterday the boot was on the other foot. Megamedia, the brothers' archily-named multi-media operation, bought Film Holdings, the special effects company that duplicated Eddie Murphy in six different guises in *The Nutty Professor*. Sir Tim just happened to be one of Computer Film's main investors. Can Chime be next on the list?

which means that when the companies are organising beds for summer 1998 they can do so very cheaply. Although brochure prices for 1998 have gone down, the margins that tour operators expect to achieve are sharply up.

Mr Amerasekera said: "Normally in an election year we would expect some consumer uncertainty. This has not been the case so far. There is a lot of consumer confidence out there and the tour operators' industry is one of the beneficiaries."

The worry for investors when sales are going so well is that holiday companies will be tempted to lay on extra capacity. If they overestimate the demand they find themselves having to discount deeply late in the season.

However, Mr Amerasekera believes that the travel companies should be able to restrain themselves from piling on capacity because they have become accustomed to enjoying healthy margins from peak-season sales.

The buoyancy of holiday stocks has also led some analysts to look again at Thomson, the UK market leader. Thomson Corporation, the UK company's parent, has made clear that it intends to offload the holiday division in the future, but has given no indication of the timescale.

Based on last year's pre-tax profits of £81 million, and expected profits this year of £100 million, analysts put the prospective sale price of Thomson Holidays at between £80 million to £1 billion.

In the company's favour is its strong position as market leader in the UK, and its cash-generating business with higher margins than some of its rivals.

One analyst said: "The holiday industry is so cyclical that although times are good now for tour operators, there will be price wars and poor margins in the future. For this reason, Thomson Corporation will have two or three opportunities to float its holiday business in the next decade. Now seems a good time, with the UK market buoyant and holiday company profits expected to rise. If a float was announced tomorrow, I would not be at all surprised."

MARTIN WALLER

Needle point
TO THE Embroiders Guild exhibition at the Barbican, *The Art of the Stitch*, sponsored, appropriately enough, by Coats Viyella. Not exactly what you might expect — "quite avant-garde stuff," muses one *ojecado*. But who was the special guest invited last night? Can it really be Norman Willis, former general secretary at the TUC, trade union bruiser, amateur poet and, it seems, a mad keen embroiderer in his spare time? Coming next: Mike Tyson takes up origami.

New Balls

DOGGIN Gordon Brown's footsteps, as ever, in Amsterdam yesterday at the EU summit was his economic special adviser at the Treasury, Ed Balls, the single most important influence on the Chancellor. But there are more balls yet to be served, it seems. He was an economics leader-writer on the *Financial Times* before heading off into the real world and helping to run the country. Now his younger brother, Andrew, is heading down the same route. FT insiders claim the parallels are

CARPETBAGGER H.Q.
OVERHEARD at Nobu, the achingly fashionable nouvelle Japanese restaurant attached to the Metropolitan Hotel on Park Lane. Lady diner: "Could I have a spoon for my soup, please?" Goatee-bearded, Armani-clad waiter: "If you're lucky." **Joli good**
EASY come, easy go. NatWest Group is selling two pictures at Sotheby's next month that should just about cover Martin Owen's compensation cheque. Hitherto hidden away in the bank's executive dining room, they

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

are some spectacular views of the River Thames by the 18th century Italian artist Antonio Joli — no, I hadn't heard of him either. And they are worth, between them, about £1.5 million. The money will actually go to create a capital fund to pay for the purchase of more modern works for NatWest's Lothbury Gallery in the City, a former local branch that the other day won this year's City Heritage Award. The pictures, described as "probably Joli's most ambitious", are one of the bank's more successful investments — in 1967 they cost about £20,000 between them.

Master class

THOSE of us who suspect that it was actually a pair of management con-



Norman Willis was invited to attend an embroidery exhibition

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Getting it together: small companies discover they can scale greater heights when they join forces

Strength in numbers may make for easier loans

By RODNEY HOBSON

MUTUAL guarantee schemes, which help small businesses to raise finance and to network, are poised for a breakthrough with the banks. Talks are under way to agree favourable lending terms for businesses that pool savings for security against loans.

Mutual guarantee schemes are popular on the Continent but are little known here. The National Association of Mutual Guarantee Societies was established last year and now boasts seven member societies: Lancashire, Durham and Darlington, Tameside, Thanet, East London and the Lee Valley, the Black Country and Leeds.

The association is working with co-operative development agencies, Business Links and training and enterprise councils. It was Lancashire Co-operative Development Agency that provided funding to form the first society.

David Bennett, chairman of the association, says: "Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that have fuelled the British economy since the mergers and closures of large companies in the 1970s and 1980s stand to gain most. The scheme brings together several SMEs in a particular region which can use their collective ability as a group to provide security

against bank loans to help them to grow their business. They can become more efficient and professional as they share business information and support."

Companies pool savings and can draw loans according to their contribution, without company directors having to put up their homes as security.

"In some parts of the country it will be possible to obtain matching European Union funds to boost the size of the pool and, therefore, the amount that can be borrowed against it."

Mr Bennett says it is common on the Continent for scheme members to borrow from the banks ten times their contribution to the pool. The UK rate is likely to be lower until the movement is better accepted.

He says: "Failure rates among companies in mutual guarantee schemes are much lower than for stand-alone businesses. It works like a traditional building society. The lending policy will always be conservative because members will not want to see their funds lost. Even if there is a business failure it may well be covered by the firm's contribution to the pool or by its assets."

He believes that networking could be even more important than the cash. He says: "Because all the members will have a financial interest in the society, the meetings are likely to be attended by the principals. This is important psychologically. It will focus their minds and they will share advice and experience."

By the end of this year Mr Bennett hopes that there will be ten mutual guarantee societies comprising 400 members with annual turnover totalling more than £300 million.

Nigel Bottomley, director of operations for the national association, may be reached on 0161 929 5130.



A marriage of convenience: Peter Dowling, Business Link West adviser, left, with members of Aztec Wedding Services network, from left: Ian Miller of Chauffeurhire; Pat Vincent from PVA; Michael McNicholas from Maccles Video; Barbara Mercer from

Networkers reap their rewards

A SMALL electronics business in Devon has just won a US defence contract worth £100,000 — because it is part of a networking company (Sally Watts writes).

Bran Instruments, of Torrington, which makes vibration-measuring equipment, won the contract against competition from America for a new instrument that gauges vibration on helicopters.

The firm belongs to a network of 21 electronic companies in Devon and Cornwall. They were brought together by North Devon Business Link to share the high cost of

testing facilities. Andy Lobato, managing director, says: "Networking is essential. Without it, a third of our business would no longer be commercially viable and eight of our 25 employees would have had to go."

Networking has cut the cost of testing and saves time. Companies share a test and training facility at Exeter University, whereas the nearest commercial site is some distance away. Don Adams, North Devon Business Link network broker, says: "These companies are working on their own inventions at the leading

Flower Fashion: Joanna Kellet of Designer Cakes; M. J. McMullen of the Aztec Hotel; Barbara Quim from Shampers; Diane Fiebig from Dante Photographers; and Vic Hardine of Chauffeurhire. The bridal gown model was supplied by Janette Hillier from i do

edge of development. Each puts money into the network according to requirements — it works like a timeshare."

The preferred method is to form a jointly owned company so that roles and responsibilities are formalised and issues such as investment and profit-sharing are clear. Owners continue to operate their own business. At the start, each signs a confidentiality agreement. By sharing overheads and pooling resources, smaller companies can create new markets and export outlets, improve sales and

gain opportunities beyond the reach of a single enterprise.

Fourteen Bristol firms in the wedding industry have formed a joint venture company, Aztec Wedding Services. A translation agency, design business and printer have combined and won major contracts from multinationals.

Network brokering, which began in the South West, has 28 Business Links from Merseyside to the Isle of Wight. Sussex has applied for European funding to network local SMEs with businesses in France.

London Techs seek boost to funding

By RODNEY HOBSON

LONDON'S seven training and enterprise councils are banding together in a bid for a greater share of funding. They hope to persuade the Government that they should have an increase on the 10 per cent of the total Tech budget that they are allocated at present.

The seven chief executives will put together a paper by the end of next month to argue their case. John Howell of Solotec, the South London Tech, says: "We believe the funding for London is inadequate."

Mr Howell fears that southeast London could see unemployment at unprecedented levels unless education and training are improved dramatically. He welcomes government initiatives in education and employment, but believes that youth unemployment needs to be halted, a daunting task.

He says: "I believe that education and business partnerships will be an important focus under the new Government. The key to the Welfare to Work programme is improving numeracy and literacy."

The chief executives believe that training in the capital would be improved if the imbalance in funding was addressed.

Mr Howell says: "Whatever statistics you look at, such as population and employment, you would expect London to get 14-18 per cent. Many parts of the country also get special help from Europe."

He says the training infrastructure needs to be built up and that an extra £10 million to £20 million is needed in South London alone.

Welsh toolmakers to pool expertise and resources

By IOLA SMITH

WALES'S 80 small toolmaking firms sell £50 million worth of tools a year to the Principality's manufacturing companies.

But they could be supplying four times as much because the manufacturers spend more than £200 million a year on tools and are buying as far afield as Port-

gal. Bringing the two sides together to keep the business in Wales is the aim of the Welsh Development Agency's £25,000 Toolmaking Initiative. Launched last week, it is the latest Source Wales programme designed to link small firms with their larger customers.

Dennis Turner, Source Wales's director, says: "We expect that up to 90 per cent of toolmakers will

join the network. They will work together and pool expertise. If a customer asks for a tool that one small firm cannot produce unaided, it will join forces with another small firm so that together they can manufacture it. Again, if a company cannot fulfil an order, it will pass the business on to another in the group."

Source Wales has worked with up

to 300 companies with fewer than 50 staff since it was set up four years ago to enable small firms to benefit from inward investment. For example, LG, the Korean manufacturer, is expected to create 15,000 jobs among its suppliers as well as 6,100 at its Newport plant.

Suppliers' networks have been set up in industries from electron-

ics to medical instrumentation. The largest is in the automotive sector, featuring small firms that service Ford, Toyota and Rover.

The Rover link is the model the other networks follow. Rover has 19 small and medium-sized Welsh suppliers that are serviced by smaller firms, all trained to the quality standards demanded by Rover. This way everyone benefits.

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Forum to help boost economy

Rodney

Hobson on a new business initiative

Strong links between the University of Surrey and local business are being further boosted this year.

The university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Patrick Dowling, will launch Surrey Innovation Forum this month at the university's research park. The forum is part of a £450,000 programme co-ordinated by Business Link Surrey to boost the local economy through better application of technology.

Professor Dowling will draw parallels between opportunities in Surrey and the way leading universities in America create major economic growth.

Surrey University was one of the founding members of Surrey Business Link, which is intended to operate as a one-stop shop dispensing advice and practical help to small and medium businesses.

The forum will improve communications between the university, companies and research organisations and ensure that the real needs of growing companies are properly understood.

Peter Cousins, deputy chief executive of Business Link Surrey, says: "Fast-growing smaller firms are an important source of employment in Surrey and this project will accelerate their growth."

Surrey County Council is also encouraging innovation through the Animate project, which has European Union backing. The aim is to persuade local companies to invest in Europe.

Earlier this year the EU awarded grants for two other research projects at the university. One will look for ways to place graduates in small and medium businesses and the second will consider how universities can improve links with the business world.

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Industry aid to stem brain drain

Surrey offers a fast track to academic success, says Chris Partridge

ONE of the major problems most universities face is losing their brightest researchers to industry. They have barely got their hands round their PhD scrolls and they are off to highly paid posts in commercial research laboratories or, even worse, sales and marketing, where their scientific knowledge and expertise is often wasted.

Now Professor Patrick Dowling, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey, has devised a plan to lure top post-graduate students back to the university. It is called the Surrey Scholar scheme and is essentially a fast track up the academic ladder, in the same way that large companies have accelerated promotion paths for talented managers.

"These people have difficulty getting into university at the post-doctoral stage, so we lose a lot to industry," says Professor Dowling. "The concept is simple — to give industry the opportunity to invest in post-doctoral students."

An impressive roll of blue-chip companies has been encouraged to sponsor students. The British Gas Surrey Scholar will look at reclaiming contaminated land, a big problem in preparing former gasworks for other uses. The British Steel Surrey Schol-

Vice-Chancellor
Patrick Dowling

garded by research scientists as too distracting.

"Surrey Scholars get released from teaching and administration so they can develop an innovative research programme over three years," says Professor Dowling.

The benefit for the university is partly in prestige, of course, and this has already begun to pay dividends. "For the first Unilever Scholar, we had applications from the premier research institutes in Switzerland, France and Germany, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Cambridge," says Professor Dowling.



Surrey graduates celebrate the end of their courses and, right, a model of the new European Institute of Health and Medical Sciences building

Dedicated to diversity

Surrey's entrepreneurial spirit and desire to be part of the community has turned it into a key player in the local economy, says Chris Partridge

Even after three decades of academic revolution, it is rare for the scholar to come across a university with such lofty ideals and financial nous as Surrey University.

Many institutions seem to have either retreated into scholarship and the arts to escape the need to cope with the modern world, while others give the impression that they are totally devoted to making huge amounts of money on the science park or out of fat European research contracts.

But when Professor Patrick Dowling, Surrey's Vice-Chancellor, speaks of his vision for the future, he uses a strange mixture of academic and commercial language.

"Our core business is in teaching and research of a world-class standard," he says. "Our objective is to achieve academic excellence with economic strength. Academic strength is useless if you are about to go broke."

He also points out that the university does not just consume — it puts much back into the community. "We are a major player in the Surrey economy, with a contribution of £450 million a year," he adds. The emphasis on eco-

nomic performance spills over into the academic programme. This is not a place where people learn interesting but useless skills, says Professor

One special thing we do is help refugees. Some are quite educated but do not know how to get into the system," he says.

"We use an old 'mechanics' institute in Guildford as a centre for advising them on how to get into worthwhile employment."

Professor Dowling is also keen to help those who grow up in deprived circumstances, and those who have fallen by the wayside.

"I am particularly concerned about underprivileged youngsters. People who grow up in middle class homes have a 71 per cent chance of going to university — those from a working-class background have a 17 per cent chance," he says.

"There was quite a shake-up in the City in the recession, so it was a shock to find, in leafy Surrey, a lot of professional people taking early retirement" and not having anything to do. We are now offering life-long learning courses very successfully".

Now that the recession is

over, the university is embarking on a major building programme, with some £40 million worth of building work under way. Developments include the Austin Pearce building, a 24-hour language laboratory, which is to open soon, and the European Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, which is due to open early in 1999. It was designed by Nicholas Grimshaw, architect of the Eurostar station at Waterloo.

Professor Dowling's most ambitious plan is to make Surrey University a centre of higher education for the whole region. Already the university has outposts in south London at Wimbledon and Roehampton, which reflects its origins as Battersea Polytechnic. But Professor Dowling has a much wider view.

"The Labour Government is putting a lot of emphasis on regionalisation, and we have the makings of a regional network of further education in Surrey, outer London, Sussex and even into Kent," he says.

"This area is relatively underprovided with universities, and we could provide the hub for the region."

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UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

A breeding ground for wealth creators

Rodney Hobson reports on a high-technology park that has attracted huge international interest

They searched high and low but according to the Koreans no one has a research park to compare with Surrey. Dr Malcolm Parry, general manager of the park, returned this week from Korea where he was asked to chair an international committee to develop the idea of a world technopolis organisation, a grouping of large centres where wealth is created through technology. Other founder members include Calgary, in Canada, and Phoenix, Arizona.

"This will promote Surrey University as an example of a park that has done very well," says Dr Parry. "The Koreans looked all over the world and decided that our park was the most successful in northern Europe."

The business park also won praise in a year-long evaluation financed by a £50,000

grant from the European Union's Strategic Programme for Innovation and Technology Transfer (Sprint).

The Sprint research found that the park had fulfilled its primary aim of providing a substantial return on investment, with contributions of £7.5 million to the university up to February last year.

The survey confirmed that the park had achieved a high profile in the marketplace and had attracted high-profile international companies.

About 600,000 sq ft has been developed and is occupied by 83 companies. They employ 2,100 people and have created 900 jobs, with 500 recruits coming from the immediate area. The average turnover per employee is £71,000 — almost 60 per cent of which goes in exports.

Over the years 150 companies have taken up residence at some stage or

another, but such is the park's success rate that many have moved to larger premises.

Dr Parry says: "A proportion of businesses that have moved out have stayed locally. We form a significant part of the economic development in the locality, not only producing wealth and an income stream for the area, but also in creating new economic activity as businesses grow."

A crucial part of the process has been the provision of an incubator centre, where very small companies can take leases as short as one month. The university is effectively subsidising economic development," says Dr Parry. "No other landlord would do it."

The Research Park, owned and developed by the university, covers 70 acres. Accommodation for high technology, research and development oc-



Dr Parry and Dr Stephen Baker, the park's development director

cupiers ranges from 600 sq ft to 100,000 sq ft. Tenants include BOC, Borax, Canon, Matsushita and Mitsubishi. The 83 companies in the park include 19 foreign ones — four from Japan and the remainder American.

"We now have a waiting list of American companies wanting to get on to the park," says Dr Parry. "It is quite embarrassing."

Dr Parry believes the success of the park reflects the quality of the low-rise, low-

density development with offices fitted to a high specification. With extensive landscaping including water features, the aim was to produce a tranquil backdrop to the sophistication of modern business, an oasis less than a mile from the centre of Guildford. Two new buildings totalling 35,000 sq ft have just been completed. About a quarter of the park has still to be developed and Dr Parry expects the full site to be completed by the end of the century.

Engineers get the green light

A NEW breed of environmentally friendly engineers will graduate from Surrey University's Environmental Technology Doctor of Engineering (EngD) programme this autumn.

They are schooled in disciplines from the social and environmental sciences, law, management skills to media relations, and are trained to understand the wider implications of the industry.

About 15 students have enrolled each year, 30-40 per cent of whom are women. "Students are determined to make a difference," says Professor Roland Clift of Surrey's Centre for Environmental Strategy, where the course is partly based.

We set up the course after observing that environmental problems tend to rise through lack of communication rather than limitations in technology. The senior manager of

Industry benefits from a degree of co-operation, says

Amanda Loose

the future is going to be a different kind of individual, one who understands social processes as well as technology; sees the whole story and can communicate with others."

The course, run jointly with Brunel University, Middlesex, was started four years ago. Students spend 75 per cent of their time working with a sponsoring company, where they complete their individual projects.

Every six weeks, students come together for taught modules, involving course work, which is also assessed. The course even includes instruc-

tion on how to handle the media. Students work with one company over the four years. These range from small operations to multinationals, and include some overseas firms. Dr Kate Burningham teaches some social science modules, including understanding environmentalism, which aims to throw light on green politics.

Traditionally, engineering students come out of EngDs with specialised knowledge, but no overview of issues such as the environment, which is not especially useful to industry," she says.

"Industry is increasingly concerned about its environmental record and image and will inevitably need people who are well informed, not just about physical and chemical impacts on the environment, but about the whole process in its political and social context."

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Satellites go into orbit economy class

Chris Partridge reports from the smallest and cheapest space mission control in the world

SURREY University's plan for the Millennium will have Britain's schoolchildren looking to the stars — by launching a satellite.

The satellite would orbit the Earth loaded with cameras and communications equipment. Schools would be able to communicate with it using simple and economical radio equipment to exchange messages worldwide.

"It is a project to inspire schoolchildren and motivate them to come into science," says Professor Patrick Dowling, Vice-Chancellor of Surrey University.

A previous satellite project run with a local school pushed entry to the science

stream up by a factor of several hundred per cent, Professor Dowling says. A national scheme could save science in schools, he believes. All Britain's schools could be involved, and it would cost only £1 million.

The Millennium satellite would be built on campus at Surrey University, one of the few academic institutions with a fully functional space centre. The control room at Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) may not be as fancy as Mission Control, Houston, but it can do almost as much. It is the smallest and cheapest satellite control station in the world.

Surrey has pioneered the



Work in progress on a satellite at SSTL

concept of ultra-low cost satellites for communications, science and educational use. When Professor Martin Sweeting first proposed the

idea, it was a revelation to an industry which built satellites to rigorous reliability standards, regardless of cost.

Professor Sweeting pointed out that satellites made from commercial components rather than military specification parts would be a fraction of the cost, but almost as reliable.

Ed Milton, a Surrey graduate and now general manager of SSTL describes the contrast between the approaches: "The industry was built around big, high-cost satellites with high reliability and taking from two to five years to design and make. Ours cost £1 million upwards, and take less than a year to make."

The tiny satellites, about the size of a waste-paper bin, as opposed to the elephant-sized satellites made by the big defence corporations, also save money on the ground. They are capable of operating on their own when out of sight of the Earth station, fine adjustments to their orbit being made only as they pass over Guildford.

Despite the commercial success of the operation, Mr Milton stresses that they have not lost touch with the main objective, to transfer the technology to emerging nations which need cheap communications.

SSTL can be found on <http://www.ee.surrey.ac.uk>

Surrey Research Park
GUILDFORD

A development by The University of Surrey

Planned to Congress Hall

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

From infertility to dancing on the Net

Research projects at the University of Surrey cover many disciplines and could benefit industry, the environment, medicine and health—even those who suffer jetlag.

Serious concerns are being tackled by the university's applied and social sciences departments. Professor Jon Groeger is studying road rage, and the psychology of driver behaviour, while Professor Ian Kitchen is looking at how morphine works in the brain, in collaboration with seven other European research centres. He hopes to discover what is responsible for its pain suppressing effects, and which genes are responsible for the addictive process.

Professor Josephine Arendt is looking at how melatonin

Amanda Loose examines some of the wide range of research projects undertaken by the university

can help the blind to regulate their body clocks, and also provide the natural answer to jetlag. Low levels of selenium, a trace mineral found in bread, cereals, fish, poultry and meat, could be contributing to cancers, cardiovascular disease and fertility problems, says research fellow Margaret Rayman.

She says: "Selenium is part

of the enzyme which helps to remove damaged molecules that over time could cause harm, such as damage to DNA which could cause mutations, or the laying down of matter in the arteries. Selenium is also needed in the tail of male sperm to enable it to

swim effectively. A random study of 1,312 elderly American patients showed a 50 per cent lower cancer mortality in those receiving selenium.

"Our daily intake of selenium has fallen by 26 micrograms since 1974, when we joined the EU, as imports of North American flour, which is rich in selenium, have been substantially reduced. But it has been added to fertiliser in Finland, since 1984, and is added to salt in China. Animals have been given supplements since 1978 as selenium deficiency can cause white muscle disease, so why not give it to humans?"

Over in the Department of Physics, Dr Peter McDonald heads up Surrey's magnetic research imaging group, which is looking at the effectiveness of the various coatings used to protect buildings and structures from water and weather damage.

Dr McDonald says: "More money is spent in the West on

the repair and replacement of existing structures—such as houses, roads and bridges—than on new projects. Some coatings are very expensive, and no one is certain how effective they are, or when is the best time to apply them."

'Animals are given extra selenium, so why not humans?'

"Most damage is linked to water transportation, such as freeze-thaw. By using stray field magnetic resonance (Straf), a form of magnetic resonance imaging, we are able to follow water or other fluids and solids into and out of a material, and look at how

far they go into a structure."

"We put a short pulse of radio waves into a sample of, for example, concrete for a few millionths of a second, which excites the protons and causes them to resonate and we computerise their response."

Surrey operates the only full-time Straf machine in the country, and is also looking at how dental resins are affected by constant exposure to bodily fluids, how paint dries and how petroleum products affect the durability of the plastic containers in which they are held.

Dr Susan Kozell runs the University's dance and culture course, a modular BA programme running since 1981 with around 30 students each year. It encompasses the culture, philosophy and anthropological theories of dance and the traditional history and repertoire of dance.

Apart from lessons in ballet and contemporary dance, students also learn African dance, and an Indian dance known as Kathak. Dr Kozell says: "We want to produce a thinking dancer, with a thorough background. My own research area is dancing and new



Susan Kozell, who specialises in dance, has performed with a colleague via the Internet

technology, including dance on the internet."

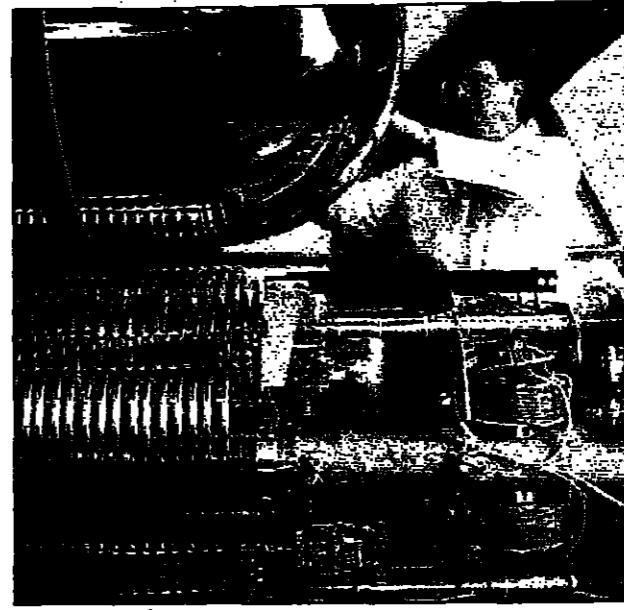
Last month Dr Kozell and a colleague danced together in cyber space. Dr Kozell was at the Electronic Art Festival in Vancouver, Canada, while her

colleague was in London. Using a small camera, linked to a computer, their images were simultaneously projected onto a screen in Vancouver.

Dr Kozell says: "It changes your rhythms and move-

ments, and extends your performance space. Austin University in Texas wants us to participate in their lectures via the Internet. Students could link up for discussion and dance afterwards."

ANDY GLASS



The new ion beam accelerator cost more than £1 million

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- International Projects such as Euromove and Leonardo deal with trans-European employment issues, identifying graduate skills for Small & Medium Enterprises. This research will also be dealt with in a national project funded by HERD.
- Close contacts with local business links such as Training & Enterprise Council, Education Business Partnership and Government Office of South East, offering possibilities for exchanges with overseas partners in business and education.

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E-Mail: M.Wallace@surrey.ac.uk

Accelerating to the millennium

Silicon chips from Surrey will be vital to a national research programme

THE transistors that cover the surface of a silicon chip are now only a few thousands of a millimetre across. They are so small that making them involves firing obscure elements into the silicon almost atom by atom. It is high technology at its highest, and Surrey University is at the cutting edge. Chris Partridge writes.

One of the critical processes used in building up the delicate structures of a silicon chip is ion implantation. Charged atoms of the required element (arsenic is a common one) are accelerated by powerful magnets to exactly the right speed and directed on to the right point on the chip, to form the combination of positively and negatively charged areas that a transistor requires.

This operation is precise beyond comprehension, so it

is performed, the laws of physics being what they are, by a machine the size of a small house and costing more than £1 million. It is an ion beam accelerator and Surrey University has just acquired a new one.

"The particles have to be accelerated to very precise speeds to place them at very shallow levels in the chip," explains Professor Brian Sealy, head of the Ion Beam Centre. "The new machine is the only one in a UK research establishment capable of doing this to the accuracy required by future generations of chips."

The new machine places Surrey University at the heart of a network of research

establishments in Britain which are joining their various capabilities to form a "virtual factory" for production of semiconductor devices for research.

The virtual factory will be located all over Britain from Edinburgh to Southampton, at research establishments with the various specialist plant required.

The parts will be shuttled from place to place for processing under computer control. A commercial wafer fabrication facility has all these machines under one roof, but these are designed to produce huge numbers of identical chips. The research community needs only small numbers of any particular chip, and the ma-

chines must be flexible enough to perform other experiments.

Professor Sealy says.

So Surrey's ion beam implanter will not only make chips, but will take Surrey to the forefront of British research into another crucial area of tomorrow's technology—displays for computers and television sets.

Researchers worldwide are trying to find ways of creating displays as thin as pictures on the wall, but to do this requires the ability to cover the surface with millions of light-emitting devices such as transistors.

The ion beam implanter is

specially adapted to do just this, and a Philips Surrey Scholar has been appointed to

specialise in the research.

Philips has a particular interest in active matrix displays

for laptop computers and personal videos, which are currently the most expensive component of such devices.

Professor Sealy also expects to use the machine to create devices in gallium arsenide, a

material like silicon only potentially many times faster. The machine could even be used to implant ions into crude mechanical parts to create ball bearings with super hard surfaces.

Career booster

Amanda Loose reports on a successful work scheme for undergraduates

MANY graduates are faced with prospective employers who ask for experience, something students struggle to gain while at university. Each year, around 90 per cent of graduates from the University of Surrey have already spent a year working in their field, thanks to its pioneering professional training course. The university has the lowest rate of graduate unemployment of any of the established universities. Professional training is open to all third-year students, and some 1,000 are placed by the professional training placement tutor in their department each year.

The programme has been running since the early Seventies, and means that graduates "hit the ground running," says Dr David Pollard, chairman of the professional training committee. He says: "The professional training year helps students to put what they have learnt into practice. They take the educational benefits of the first and second year into an industrial or professional environment. Skills are developed and taken back to the university, enhancing the students' levels of achievement in their final year."

"Students must use their initiative, and learn what a profession is all about, often doing the same jobs as graduates. They are more mature and self-critical when they come back, and some even go back to the same company when they graduate."

Senior tutors make the applications on behalf of students, having discussed with them what kind of company they want to work for. Students have been placed with British Airways, Esso, SmithKline Beecham and AirBus in France.

A member of staff visits the student over the year, and their assessments can count for up to 15 per cent of their final degree classification. The Association of the University of Surrey presented to graduates relates to their performance, and is co-signed by a professional institution in some cases.

Sally Edwards is in the final year of chemical and process engineering. She spent nine months with ICI in Runcorn as a project manager, and over three months at their Botany Bay plant in Australia.

She says: "The professional training year was one of the main reasons I chose Surrey."

Sky High at Surrey

Groundbreaking research in the field of satellite engineering and communications has won the University of Surrey a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education.

In another boost for the University's Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, it achieved the top 5* ranking in the latest Research Assessment Exercise.

In our research we aim high—we pioneered affordable access to space with smaller, faster, cheaper satellites. But we don't have our heads in the clouds and we don't stop at producing first class research—we apply it. Our satellite engineering and communications expertise is employed in our own company Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) and in the work of our Centre for Satellite Engineering Research (CSER) and Centre for Communication Systems Research (CCSR).

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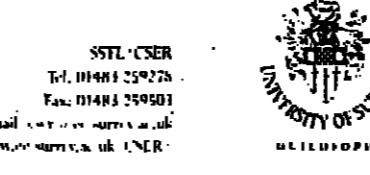
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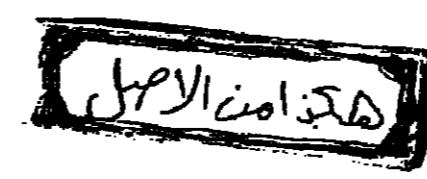


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Dax O'Callaghan as a key witness in the "murder" case, with the real-life Judge Butler in the background

Inside the jury at last

Frances Gibb reports on a television series that has found a way of looking closely at how juries operate

Light is shed for the first time this week on the biggest secret of the criminal justice system — what goes on in the jury room. A drama-documentary that began last night breaks new ground in the genre of courtroom television.

For the first time, a "real" trial is created, using a judge, QC, expert witnesses, court staff, and a jury of non-actors retiring to consider its verdict. But unlike a real trial, where cameras are still banned, the cameras for *Trial By Jury* follow the jurors' deliberations. The outcome is a compelling insight into how they reach their verdict.

The three-part series has been produced by Nick Catiff, who in 1994 made broadcasting history with his TV series *The Trial*, which took cameras inside Scottish courts (not covered by the same law as in England and Wales). "This time," he says, "the aim is to show how a murder trial actually works — to feel the cloth, what it is really like." His experience with *The Trial* convinced him that ordinary trials — as opposed to the sensational O.J. Simpson type — made good viewing. He adds: "This is a typical trial, resulting from an incident of the kind people might see, so

that viewers can relate to it." A fictional murder was created. Simon Chapman, a stockbroker travelling home to Richmond in southwest London from a business dinner, was stabbed to death on a late-night train. Fifteen-year-old Duncan More has been charged with the murder. But his lawyers argue that Duncan's friend, 13-year-old David Parker, was actually the killer. Only the boys and the witnesses were played by actors. The murder was acted out on the train, so witnesses had real memories on which to draw. A "corpse" was created, lawyers instructed, briefs drawn up and case conferences held (with Mark Ashford, a solicitor).

The witnesses were given statements, but there were no scripts. The action in court, as with a real trial, was spontaneous and unpredictable.

For the viewer, the trial is the closest thing yet televised to being in court, greatly helped by the participation of two top criminal silks, Ronald Thwaites, QC, and Joanna Greenberg, QC, with forensic experts such as Professor Bernard Knight and the judge, the

retired Gerald Butler, QC. "I soon began to feel that I was in a real case," he says. "These counsel and experts had appeared before me... and the witnesses and the boys were excellent."

The trial was filmed over five days at the old Oxford Crown Court. The judge said he quickly forgot about the presence of the cameras. "I don't think," he says, "that I behaved any differently from start to finish than I would have in a real trial."

The programme's chief interest lies in the jury-room discussion leading to the verdict. The result, Judge Butler believes, is a vindication of the jury. Four verdicts were possible: guilty of murder, guilty of manslaughter, guilty of manslaughter by reason of provocation, and not guilty.

Normally, he would have issued jurors with a written summing-up on the law, but he wanted to see how they coped without. He says: "I was impressed with the way they approached the factual issues." They had seemed ready-

ly able to put to one side the trial. But they did, he felt, at times get muddled over legal distinctions during the one and a half days of deliberation. "As the hours went by," he says, "they seemed to lose the thread of the law and merge the concepts into one another."

There was also a glimpse into what Mr Catiff calls the "dynamics" of the jury room: how (without revealing the result) they persuaded one of their number to change her mind, so as to come to the requisite majority of 10-2, having been faced with a real risk of being "hung".

In the end, aided by a particularly articulate forewoman, the six men and women (chosen from scores who applied to be an advertisement to give a cross-section) did get the "right" result, the one the programme-makers say reflects what happened.

So what does it all show? Mr Catiff's view is that: "You can see the problems with trying to lay the rigorous template of the law on top of an emotional event. The jurors thought the lawyers were good at their jobs, but the jurors clearly

discounted what they thought was said just to back their case. Nor did they think the system was designed to show what really happened.

"In the end, they got it right — people of mixed backgrounds, drawing on their own experience of life as much as on legal argument."

Judge Butler comments: "We delude ourselves if we believe juries follow complex legal instructions. I do not criticise them. But it seems there is great merit in perhaps a judge retiring with a jury to deal with points of law." Otherwise, he thinks that the whole concept should be reconsidered. "But," he adds, "I accept that the system has flaws, but I know of no better."

• *Trial By Jury* (BBC2, continuing tonight and tomorrow at 11.15).

Inns fail to agree on equality

THE BAR and the four Inns of Court are at loggerheads again over the Inns' failure to implement a joint equality code four years after a draft was drawn up. A motion before the Bar again on Saturday by Lincoln Crawford and Laura Cox, QC (chairs of the race relations and sex discrimination committees), condemning the Inns for the delay was overwhelmingly carried.

The issue last blew up in 1993 when the Inns failed to adopt a joint anti-discrimination code, a stance attacked by Mr Justice Sedley, the High Court judge, as exposing the profession to "public criticism".

The Inns have since agreed a broad equality policy but are still working on a detailed code. The Bar launched its own comprehensive equality code last year, the most extensive adopted by a profession. The Bar Council approved it three years earlier.

Martin Bowley, QC, and bENCHER of Inner Temple, accuses the Inns of "dragging their collective feet for more than four years". He adds:

INNS AND OUTS

INNS AND OUTS

The issue shows not merely a lack of ... commitment to equal opportunities by the Inns but more, their refusal to drag themselves into the 20th century, let alone the 21st."

Lord Justice Saville, who is chairing the Inns' working party, rejects the notion that the Inns are going slow on equality. Details had been hard to agree, partly because of the Inns' differing governing bodies, because of the range of people affected by the code and because of how to

enforce it. "We take the view," he says, "that there is no point having a code without sanctions — and it is not easy working out a common disciplinary procedure."

CPS changes

SIR Iain Glidewell, the retired

Court of Appeal judge, is to carry out the review of the Crown Prosecution Service, assisted by Sir Geoffrey Dear, who has just retired as HM Inspector of Constabulary. It

looks like being a no-holds barred review, covering both internal structures and policies and procedures, as well as how the CPS informs victims of crime about prosecution decisions.

Meanwhile, lawyers in private practice will after all, be able to apply for the new Chief Crown Prosecution (CCP) posts being created in the reorganisation in which the 13 areas are to be replaced by 42, each headed by a chief crown prosecutor.

Battle hots up

NOW THAT THE novelty has worn off, it is unclear how the solicitors' profession will react to third set of elections for the Law Society presidency in a row. Phillip Sycamore's camp fears that his adversary, the former President Martin Mears, has a real chance of winning on the coat-tails of a protest vote, if the turnout is low. In anticipation of a fierce battle, the *Law Society Gazette* has written to candidates laying down strict terms of engagement for the election coverage in the magazine. They include the stipulation that all advertisements and articles submitted by the candidates be scrutinised by the *Gazette's* libel reader.

SCRIVENOR

en evidence before a select committee at all — far less with a committee covering the department.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

We want a committee'

GEOFFREY HOON, the new junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, is already making his mark. Determined to see more scrutiny by the Commons of his department and its work, he wants a Commons select committee broadly covering legal affairs to sit alongside the home affairs committee.

Five years ago, the Lord Chancellor had never given

any evidence before a select committee at all — far less with a committee covering the department.

STEUART & FRANCIS

PRIMA FACIE, LEGES POSTERIORIBUS PRIORES CONTRARIUS ABROGANT.

LOOK THIS UP FOR ME, WOULD YOU RACHEL? I DON'T NEED TO SEE THE ANSWER BEFORE MONDAY MORNING.

HOW LAWYERS ANSWER COMPLEX LEGAL PROBLEMS

ER... I DON'T KNOW

ER... IT DEPENDS... I SUGGEST WE GO TO COUNSEL ON THIS ONE.

PRIMA FACIE, LEGES POSTERIORIBUS PRIORES CONTRARIUS ABROGANT.

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LAW

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- ITALIAN EXPORTS 41



Evidence to defend OJ's prosecutor

The rejection of your submissions is always a disagreeable experience for an advocate, to be discussed only with close friends and loved ones, and then to be forgotten as soon as possible. The remarkable autobiography of Marcia Clark, lead prosecution counsel in the O.J. Simpson trial in Los Angeles, is unusual and compelling as a study of the bitter experience of abject failure.

Without a Doubt (written with Teressa Carpenter, and published by Viking, \$25.95) is not about losing a normal case. It concerns a legal disaster of epic proportions. The proceedings had a nightmare quality, involving several months of pressure combating ruthless opponents before a grossly incompetent judge seeking to persuade an exceptionally hostile jury, in front of a worldwide television audience of hundreds of millions of people critical of Ms Clark's cross-examination techniques, her strategy, her hairstyle, and her child-care arrangements.

Life at the Bar brings many unusual experiences but appearing in court on the day when a tabloid magazine has published topless photographs sold to it by one's mother-in-law has happened to very few of us. All advocates have their difficult cases, but not many can claim that a Holocaust survivor sent me a book on coping". What touched Ms Clark most, she confides, was a letter sent by a convent of Dominican nuns" urging "courage and fortitude". She taped it to the wall next to her desk "and turned to it every day for comfort".

Now Ms Clark finds some solace, and entertains her readers, by taking what revenge she can for the humiliation she experienced. She does not have feelings of animosity for her learned friends on the defence team. Mr Johnnie Cochran is, she asserts, "a two-faced hypocritical bastard" and Mr Robert Shapiro a "patronising asshole". The other defence lawyers are fortunate to escape as "a set of incomparably grandiose egos".

Ms Clark finds Judge Ito guilty on a number of serious charges. He allowed himself to be "pushed around by the defence", and was "too sensitive to his own press notices". She has "never seen a man with so little spine". In his court, the bench "always looked empty". Even when Lance was sitting on it", Ms Clark concludes that you cannot "expect a clown to stop a circus".

Marcia Clark is entitled to feel bitter. Like so many lawyers, she was adduced to trial work. For her, "a new case is like a secret lover. You think about it. Plan for it." But the trial of O.J. Simpson turned into a "weird and seedy game show" with her "a featured

player in a freak show". As she observes, the potent cocktail of race and celebrity, stirred by sharp defence lawyers and a weak judge, produced a travesty of justice. She knew, long before the verdict, that she was not persuading the jury, even wearing her "believe me suit".

But what Ms Clark is unable or unwilling to acknowledge is the substantial responsibility which the prosecution must bear for the failure to convict O.J. Simpson. Television cameras may have contributed to the farce, but they certainly demonstrated the incompetence of those presenting the case for the People of California. A powerful case was lost in a mass of irrelevant witnesses, over-complex presentations, and unfocused cross-examination.

An important part of the problem during the trial was that Ms Clark lacked any sense of objectivity. Describing one of her earlier cases, she tells us that she wrote to the victim's mother that she hoped to secure the conviction of "the miserable slimy piece of cow dung" facing trial for murder. During O.J. Simpson's arraignment, Ms Clark was not concentrating on the California penal code. She records: "You asshole, I thought. You ungenerous, scum-sucking creep". Ms Clark seems unable to understand that so emotional an involvement may make it more difficult for a prosecutor to perform her task of explanation and persuasion.

When lawyers win cases, they expect praise for their powerful advocacy. When they lose, it is the fault of an unsatisfactory witness, a foolish judge, or a slippery opponent. Despite its self-pity and special pleading, *Without a Doubt* (currently third in *The New York Times* list of best-selling non-fiction books) should be read by all lawyers as a compelling account of advocacy on the edge.

No doubt this morning in the robing rooms of courts across the country advocates are, like Ms Clark, complaining that "the stress is getting to me. Most of the time I feel ill", and suffering from "bouts of bone-crushing fatigue". But, echoing the heroic Ms Clark, those lawyers will be expressing the determination that although they might lose "when the bell rings at the end of 15 rounds", they still "want to be standing. Bloody, staggering, puking, maybe. But still standing".

The trial of Ms Clark is an inspiration to us all. However unsympathetically our own submissions may be received, it could all be so much worse. And we can all hope for a \$4.2 million book deal.

• The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

US Investment Bank: City

CHAMBERS

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The ideal candidate will have 2-4 years' experience of either securities or derivatives gained within private practice or in-house. This hybrid/commercial role encompasses working closely with the trading and structuring desks for emerging markets, structured credit and tax driven products. Responsibilities involve reviewing term sheets offered by the bank including structured notes, asset backed transactions and default swaps. Naturally the ability to integrate in a trading floor environment, which at times means operating in high pressure situations, is a prerequisite. Consequently strong interpersonal and numeracy skills are essential. This is a first class opportunity to work in the front office of a successful and burgeoning global financial institution where the financial and professional rewards are amongst the best.

Chambers Banking & Finance recruit lawyers into banks and other financial institutions. For further information or for career advice, please ring Deborah Kirkman or Stuart Morton on 0171 606 8844. Confidentiality is assured.

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This highly successful City firm has a young, dynamic culture and is at the top tier in the commercial property field. It seeks a lawyer to join its property department of 50 lawyers to do varied and interesting work, including acquisitions, development, management and leases, for an impressive client list. High rewards are on offer. Ref: 4082. Contact: Pandas Close.

PENSIONS

Leading medium sized player in City corporate work, well known for its expertise in employee benefits has an opening for a lawyer to handle pensions work and other employment work or other employee benefits. You will join a team of four lawyers and initial training will be on hand before you enjoy a high degree of responsibility, working on your own initiative. Ref: 1119. Contact: Pandas Close.

COMPUTER COMPANIES

Several companies within the computer and computer services industry are seeking to hire lawyers with proven IT contracts experience. Attractive candidates will have top class drafting and negotiation skills coupled with commercial nous and should relish the prospect of seeing matters through from start to finish. Locations throughout London and the Northern and Western Home Counties. Contact: Paul Rammack.

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3-8 YEARS' PQE. A household name company seeks a lawyer for a role which involves providing support to management on a wide range of legal issues, dealing with some company secretarial matters, data protection, consumer credit, UK and EU legislation. You will also get involved in Intellectual Property particularly with regard to the company's highly valuable trade marks. Home Counties. Ref: 4180. Contact: Paul Rammack.

14 YEARS' PQE

Major Broadcasters have a need for a Lawyer to provide a comprehensive legal service both internally and externally.

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Small but prospering team at respected medium-sized practice seeking a non-contentious specialist to play a key role in a team which is seeking to develop rapidly. The work covered by the group spans the full range of trademark, copyright and patent issues as well as IT and Media work. This firm has proved excellent at integrating solicitors from larger City law firms and can offer a "fast track" route to partnership. Ref: 4207. Contact: Clive Baines.

BROADCASTING - IN-HOUSE

Superb and substantial banking litigation department of circa 70 partner practice is looking for an assistant with ideally 3 years PQE. The firm acts for a number of the Country's leading banks and can offer a combined package of first-rate work, a top City salary, an outstanding working environment and excellent prospects. The ideal applicant is confident and friendly with a strong academic background. Ref: 4206. Contact: Jane Glassberg.

BANKING LITIGATION

2-5 YEARS' PQE Superb and substantial banking litigation department of circa 70 partner practice is looking for an assistant with ideally 3 years PQE. The firm acts for a number of the Country's leading banks and can offer a combined package of first-rate work, a top City salary and regular travel. Ref: 4201. Contact: Peter Gosden.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

6 MONTH



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CHAMBERS

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Reasons for relocating
What do you say when your prospective employer asks you why you want to relocate? Being interviewed in the staff partner's office of the leading law firm in Cleethorpes, do you admit that the real reason for your move is your friend's appointment at the local Cleethorpes hospital? Probably not. There are better reasons which inspire greater confidence. Not that many employees are prudish any longer about candidates living with their partners unmarried. They simply need to hear reasons which sound both serious and durable.

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Candidates may wish to avoid mentioning girlfriends or boyfriends, even as an afterthought. Any astute interviewer will realise at once that the afterthought is more significant than all the other reasons put together.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS DIRECTORY
Our legal directory is available from Estates, (01403 - 710 971)

INDUSTRY Sonya Payner, Fiona Boxall, Morwenna Lewis, Alison Shepherd

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International co seeks solicitor min 5 yrs' ppe to handle jv's, loan documentation and project finance issues related to the group's worldwide development portfolio.

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Household name needs solicitor 1-3 yrs' ppe with proven advocacy skills to handle employment claims and represent the company at industrial tribunals.

Professional Negligence: Berkshire

2 year qualified defendant professional negligence solicitor required for financial services company. Role also includes general legal services advice on contracts and some project work. Excellent communication skills and ability to work on own initiative are vital.

PRIVATE PRACTICE LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson

SOUTH: Helen Mills, Noel Murray, NORTH: Sukhi Bahra, Paul Thomas

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Company/Commercial: London

Opportunity for a general co/commercial solicitor with c. 2-4 years' ppe to enjoy in house life. Experience of jv's, general contracts, Yellow Book and Companies Act work is essential. Involves some travel.

Trusts: Manchester

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Head of London Office: US Firm

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Corporate Tax: Leeds

Forward thinking firm has an opportunity for a 2-4 year qualified solicitor to handle corporate tax and employee share schemes. Excellent package offered.

Private Client Partner: London/Kent

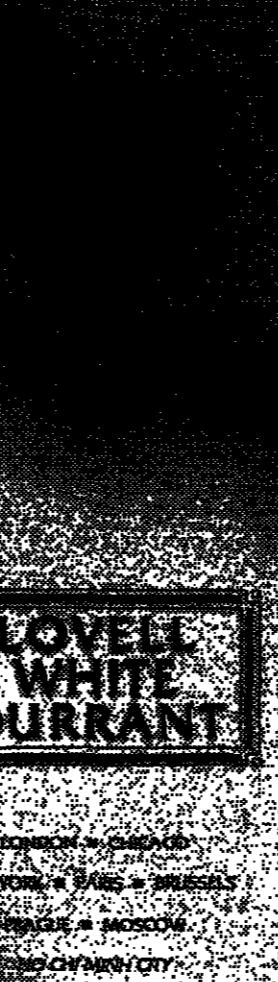
Regional heavyweight seeks senior private client specialist to service growing high net worth client base. Definite partnership appointment.

Corporate Tax: Leeds

Forward thinking firm has an opportunity for a 2-4 year qualified solicitor to handle corporate tax and employee share schemes. Excellent package offered.

Private Client Partner: London/Kent

Regional heavyweight seeks senior private client specialist to service growing high net worth client base. Definite partnership appointment.



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The Tax Department at Lovell White Durrant is experiencing an increasing demand for a high level tax service.

With strength in depth across the range of direct and indirect tax work in areas of planning, structural, advisory and transactional support work, the department services the clients of the firm across the whole spectrum.

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For further information on Lovell White Durrant or any of these positions, please contact our retained consultants, Sally Horrox or Yvonne Smyth on 0171 577 0510 (0181 995 3396 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Macneil Bremer, 37 St. Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential 0171 247 5174. Email sally@zmb.co.uk. Web pages http://www.zmb.co.uk.

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Sarah David, Stephen Rodney or Seamus Hear (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6042 (0181-789 7704 or 0171-354 3079 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

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Commerce & Industry

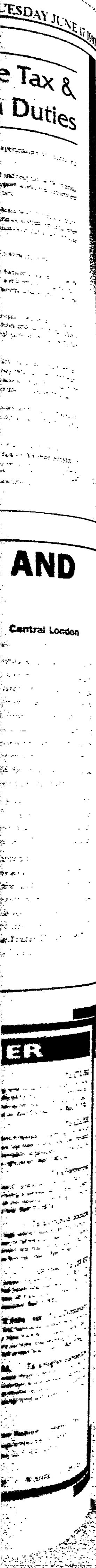
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For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Mesrie, Kate Sutcliffe and Rebecca Errington on 0171-405 6062 (0181-789 9933 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

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For further information in complete confidence, contact:
Lucy Boyd or Marian Lloyd-Jones who are exclusively instructed to handle this assignment.

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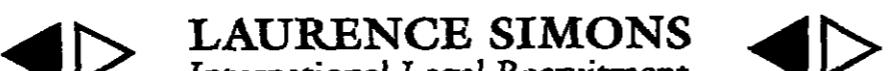
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For further information on this opportunity, please contact Naveen Tuli or Jane Foster. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to us.



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experience of multi-party negotiations or misdemeanour law challenges to environmental permits (or both). Ideally someone with some technical background.

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Mitre Court Chambers is a busy expanding set of common law Chambers seeking to appointment a Senior Clerk/Practice Manager, who will take marketing initiatives developing existing work and future business potential, plan strategically for Chambers' future and manage internal administration. Applications with cv and current salary details to The Management Committee, Chambers of John Burton, Mitre Court Chambers, Temple, London EC4Y 7BP. Tel: 0171 353 9394.

Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom

Employment Lawyer

The Royal College of Nursing is the world's largest professional union for nurses and provides a high quality in-house legal service to its members.

To meet the growing demand for employment law advice and representation, we are now seeking a solicitor or barrister of at least 3 years' post-qualification employment law experience, to join our team of specialist employment lawyers. Exceptional candidates with less than 3 years' experience may be considered. You will be based in our Birmingham office and will work closely with RCN staff and members in the West Midlands and South West of England.

Candidates will be expected to handle, unsupervised, a substantial employment caseload and must have appropriate specialist knowledge and advocacy experience.

The salary will be in the range of £26,124 - £34,373pa. We offer excellent conditions of service in a non-smoking environment.

For further details and an application form (CVs in isolation will not be accepted), please write to Andrew Dunleavy, Personnel Department, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 8AS, (enclosing an A4 stamped addressed envelope) quoting ref: RCN/1852. Closing date for receipt of applications: 4 July. Interviews will be held on 25 July 1997.

The Royal College of Nursing is a registered charity which promotes the art and science of nursing. We are committed to equal opportunities and welcome applications from job sharers.

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An attractive remuneration package is offered. Please send CV in confidence to: Paul McCourt, Human Resources Manager, JETPHONE LIMITED, Universal House, Shannon, Co. Clare, Ireland.

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Mergers & Acquisitions

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Premier global investment bank seeks lawyer with 5 years' ppe to deal with syndicated loans and securitisation issues; excellent role for start-up. Ref 35353 - Claire Hine

Corporate Finance

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Leading global investment bank requires a lawyer with 3-6 years' ppe to join its equity capital-markets team; exciting and challenging role. Ref 36371 - Niru Chandra

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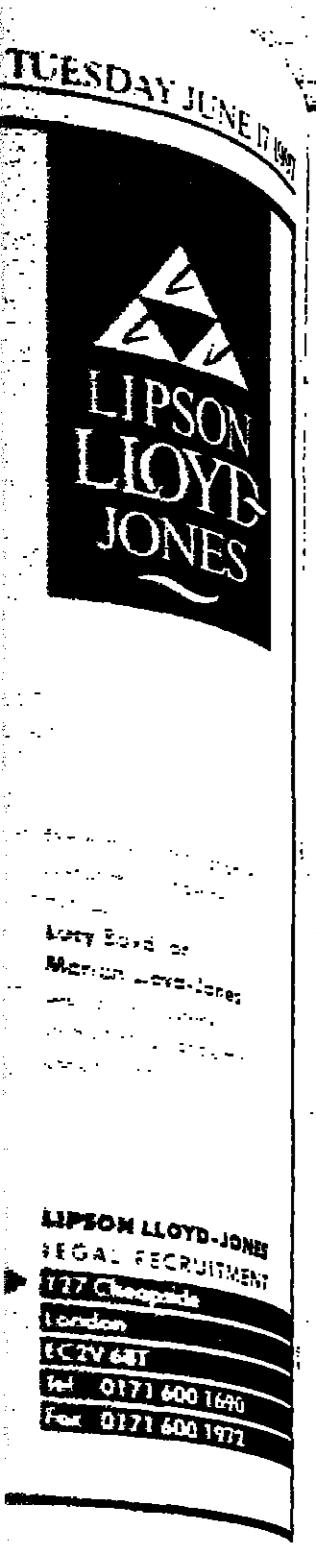
John Smith, Partner, on 0171 222 1234.

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BARLOW LYDE & GILBERT GENERAL INSURANCE DIVISION HIGH FLYER IN THE LONDON MARKET?

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For further information in complete confidence, please contact Rebecca Errington or Michelle McGregor (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-359 6660 evenings/weekends) or 0171-792 0475 (0171-359 6660 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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E-Mail:[surname]@brickcourt.demon.co.uk

Brick Court Chambers are pleased to welcome back to Chambers Sir Nicholas Lyell QC MP, the former Attorney General. We are pleased to announce that Mr Conor Quigley has accepted an invitation to join our Brussels Chambers, where he will continue to practice European Community Law.

Brick Court Chambers specialise in all aspects of Commercial Law including Insurance, Banking, Shipping, Financial Services, Arbitration, European Community Law, Competition Law, Human Rights, Media and Entertainment Law and Public and Administrative Law.

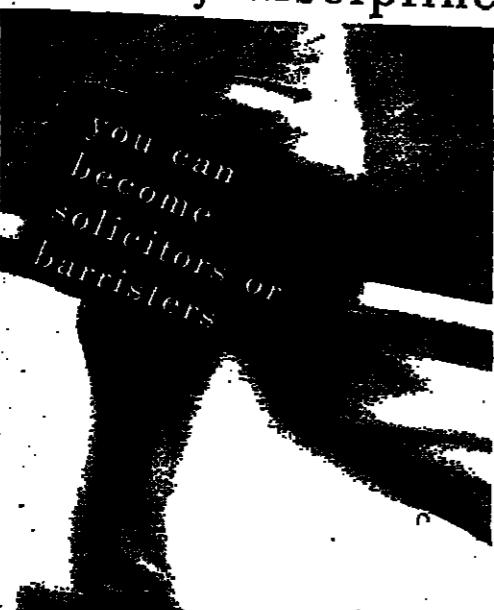
The present members of Brick Court Chambers are:

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Philip Owen QC	Derrick Wyatt QC	Richard Lord	Paul Wright
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Jonathan Sumption QC	George Leggett QC	Fergus Randolph	Alan Roxburgh
Hilary Heilbron QC	Peter Irvin	Conor Quigley	Jennima Stratford
Nicholas Forwood QC	Peter Brunner	David Garland	Alec Haydon
Mark Cran QC	David Lloyd Jones	Nicholas Green	Michael Bools
Jonathan Hirst QC	Charles Hollander	Neil Calver	Roger Masefield
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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

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FAMILY

Experienced family lawyer sought by this medium-sized, London based, law firm for a 5/6 month contract. Candidates will be dealing with a heavy caseload, although the position could be part-time. Ref: 40917

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Heavyweight commercial lawyer sought by this energy company for a 6 month contract. Candidates must have first class contract experience ideally with expertise in upstream gas. Ref: 40963

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Small, but highly commercial firm, handling excellent quality work, seeks a junior litigation solicitor to join them initially on a short-term basis, with the possibility of the position becoming permanent. Candidates should ideally come from a City background and be available immediately. Ref: 26263

For further information please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Anderson on 0171-405 6062 (0171-350 6682 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekend) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

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You can also see this vacancy on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/jobs/c24606.htm> and apply on-line from our world wide web site.

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Please send a full CV with current salary details, in strictest confidence to: Dominic Casuly, Personnel Manager, Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co., Ltd, 155, Bishopsgate, LONDON EC2M 3XU.

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range of corporate and commercial activity that may arise from their ongoing operation. Successful experience in securities transactions, including documentation for mutual funds and public offerings, would be particularly helpful.

Conditions of employment will fully reflect the responsibilities of this position.

Resumes with references may be submitted in complete confidence to: Manager of Human Resources, Conyers Dill & Pearman, PO Box HM 666, Hamilton, Bermuda HM CX. Fax: (441) 292-3134. E-mail: info@cdp.bm

Closing date: 30th June 1997.

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The successful candidate will be a commercial lawyer with sound knowledge of banking and financial law, with particular reference to the documentation of transactions relating to the capital markets. Experience of aircraft financing will be of advantage, as will evidence of strong powers of analysis, coupled with a pragmatic and informal approach to business problems. Some exposure to and interest in European law would be helpful. It is unlikely that anyone less than 5 years qualified would have sufficient relevant experience.

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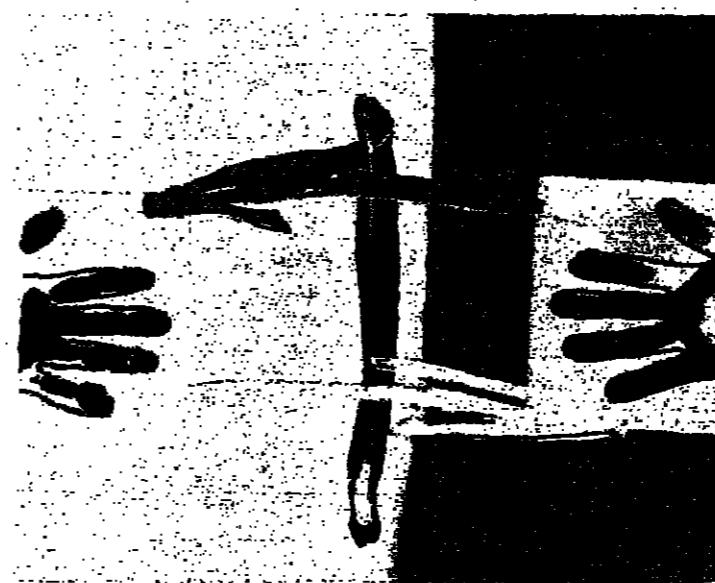
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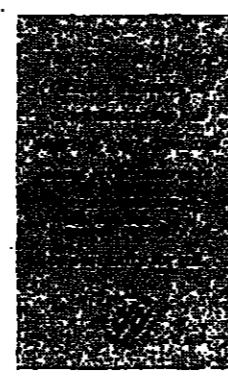
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Applicants should be an experienced academic lawyer with a record of high quality publication and research who can help to lead the Department's research efforts both in terms of publication and research supervision.

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MOTOR SPORT

Drivers accelerate safety campaign

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN IN MONTREAL

THE visions of an enduring nightmare were all too real. A racing driver, manhandled out of the scorched remnants of his cockpit by marshals, lay helplessly beside the track. Surrounded by doctors and watched by the world through the unforgiving lenses of television cameras, he was strapped to a stretcher before a helicopter arrived to take him to hospital.

Oliver Panis had broken both legs, but Michael Schumacher's first instinct, as he drove past the scene on the way to a hollow victory in the Canadian Grand Prix on Sunday, was to recall the death of Ayrton Senna. David Coulthard, who would have won but for a systems failure in the pits seconds before the incident, was numbed by similar sentiments.

Even as Panis was being prepared for the surgery that represented the critical first step in the rebuilding of his career, the pair put aside the conflicting emotions of the race to send a letter, regarding safety, to Max Mosley, the president of the FIA, the world governing body of motor sport.

Senna's death, three years ago, has made the drivers more proactive and the severity of Panis' injuries has renewed the debate about the design of nose-cones, which can trap drivers in the event of an accident.

Questions are also being asked about the competence of the Montreal marshals, who took a considerable amount of

time to go to the stricken Frenchman's aid after he had lost control at 150mph.

The accident affected all of us deeply," Schumacher said. As director of the Grand Prix Drivers Association, he and Coulthard are determined to play a full role in the investigations that will intensify. Coulthard, under pressure because of the assumption that McLaren will release at least one of their drivers at the end of the season, understands the rules of the game.

"We're in the fashion business," he said. "Today I'm in fashion. After Monaco, when I made a mistake, I wasn't. I see no reason why I should be under any threat whatsoever. I've heard the rumours of Damon coming here, but I don't believe that would be as a replacement for me. Sure, I've great respect for him, but as team-mates at Williams we were closely matched."

"I'd understand it if Michael Schumacher was available. He gets it right more often than not. But I've proved myself to be comfortable at the front, racing at Michael's pace."

Alain Prost, whose eponymous team had been built around the potential of Panis, was reluctant to apportion blame. Given the pragmatism that pervades Formula One, his priority is to find a replacement of sufficient stature for the rest of the season.

In the longer term, he covets Damon Hill, who finished his first race for the Arrows team on Sunday, but in the short term he is being linked with Martin Brundle, whose seamstress development into an outstanding television commentator dismuses unfulfilled ambition.

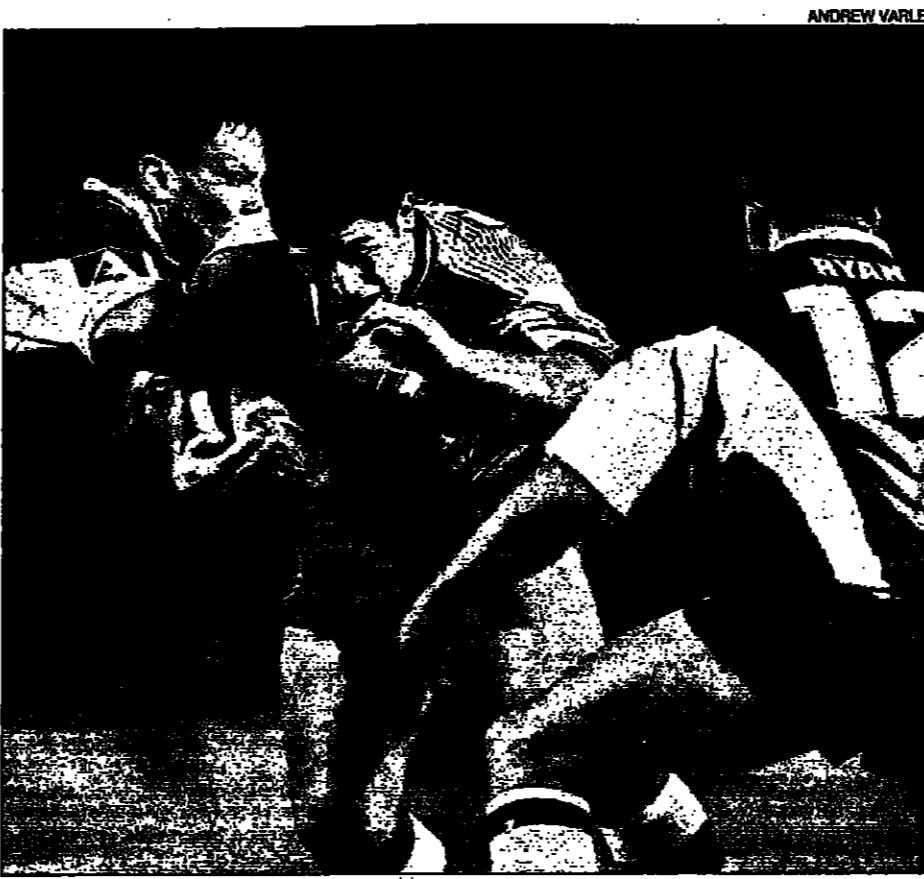
Other names, notably French drivers such as Emmanuel Collard and Jean Christophe Bouillon, will be bandied about in the coming days, when the political machinations will intensify. Coulthard, under pressure because of the assumption that McLaren will release at least one of their drivers at the end of the season, understands the rules of the game.

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"I'd understand it if Michael Schumacher was available. He gets it right more often than not. But I've proved myself to be comfortable at the front, racing at Michael's pace."

Though political ducking and diving has worked for me in the past, you really never know what people are doing in this game. I want to remain with the team and all I can do is work with information I know to be true and do my job to the best of my ability."

Sometimes that is not enough. As Panis discovered to his cost, fate can conspire against even the most talented and well-connected driver. They are not supermen. They have



Nigel Wright, of Wigan, is halted in his tracks in Brisbane by Lazarus and Ryan

Eagles thrive on elusive prey

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AS THE first European winners on home soil in the world club championship, Sheffield Eagles brought a brief respite in the Australasian domination on Sunday night and dispelled the notion that sides from the southern hemisphere are unbeatable.

Perth Reds were made to look mortal as Sheffield turned a 20-point deficit into a 26-22 victory at Don Valley Stadium. John Kear, the Eagles coach, said: "It means we ought to start believing in ourselves a little more. They are not supermen. They have

two arms and two legs and can be tackled just like anybody else."

Sheffield's remarkable comeback was completed two minutes from the end. Nick Pinkney, the England centre, seized on a loose ball for his second try after Marcus Vasiliakopoulos tackled Greg Fleming, the Perth full back, who had unsuccessfully tried to run the ball out from a long kick by Mark Aston.

Pinkney said: "I couldn't believe it. I looked down, saw the ball and ran to the line. It was like something out of a fairy-tale. We took our time to get points on the board, but we

always fancied ourselves to come back."

"We made the error of every European team in this competition of sitting back from the start. Before we knew it, we were well behind. Everyone showed great character and got the reward."

Victory from an unlikely quarter — Sheffield had lost their previous three home matches — must serve to free British teams generally of their inferiority complex.

Dean Lance, the Perth coach, said: "To lose from 22-2 was ridiculous. We are mentally soft. The guys have acted like they are on holiday."

FOOTBALL

United open season at White Hart Lane

MANCHESTER United will begin the defence of their FA Carling Premiership crown with a visit to Tottenham Hotspur when the 1997-98 season opens on August 9.

Traditionally one of the more entertaining fixtures on the calendar, United's trip to White Hart Lane is perhaps the highlight of the first day of the campaign, with the three clubs promoted from the Nationwide League — Bolton Wanderers, Barnsley and Crystal Palace — meeting Southampton, West Ham United and Everton, respectively.

Barnsley, many pundits' favourites to be relegated next spring, must wait until the final day of the season, May 10, for the match that their

supporters may be awaiting with most relish, the visit of

AUGUST 9: FA Carling Premiership: Barnsley v West Ham; Blackburn v Derby; Coventry v Chelsea; Everton v Crystal Palace; Leeds v Arsenal; Leicester v Aston Villa; Liverpool v Newcastle; Manchester United; Wimbledon v Liverpool. Nationwide League: First division: Bradford v Bury; Cheltenham v Bristol City; Doncaster v Grimsby; Fleetwood v Morecambe; Forest Green Rovers v Hereford; Gillingham v Leyton Orient; Hartlepool v Notts County; Rochdale v Peterborough; Scunthorpe; Rotherham v Barnet; Scarborough v Cambridge Utd; Shrewsbury v Darlington; Stockport County v Southport; Stevenage v Crewe; West Bromwich v Tranmere; Second division: Blackpool v Luton; Bristol City v Macclesfield; Chester v Oldham; Fleetwood v Wrexham; Gillingham v Preston; Grimsby v Bristol City; Millwall v Bradford; Northwich Victoria v Bury; Oldham v Tranmere; Shrewsbury v Southport; Stockport County v Wrexham; Third division: Chester v Luton; Colchester v Darlington; Exeter v Hartlepool; Leyton Orient v Carlisle; Morecambe v Accrington Stanley; Notts County v Rochdale; Peterborough v Scunthorpe; Rotherham v Barnet; Scarborough v Cambridge Utd; Shrewsbury v Darlington; Stockport County v Southport; Stevenage v Crewe; West Bromwich v Tranmere.

FOR THE RECORD

110m hurdles: 1. A. Janett (Hannover) 12.22sec; 2. A. Tolosa (Barcelona) 14.15; 3. Cowan (South) 14.83; 400m hurdles: 1. A. Burmistrov (Russia) 52.15; 2. P. Ferrini (Slovenia) 52.16; 3. C. Simeone (Italy) 52.20; 5. S. Long (Ireland) 52.30; 6. A. Lawes (South) 52.70; Hammer: P. Head (South) 72.90m; 2. D. McNamee (Ireland) 72.50m; 3. M. Robson (Wales) 71.45m; 3. T. McLoughlin (Irel) 72.30m; Women's 1,500m: 1. E. McKinnon (Ireland) 4:09.30; 2. J. Pyk (Norway) 4:09.40; 3. S. Woods (Ireland) 4:09.50; 4. B. Walker (England) 4:09.70sec; 5. D. Adkin (Ireland) 4:09.80; 3. J. Woods (High jump: 1. C. Austin 2.11m; 2. J. Kear (England) 2.08m; Long jump: 1. K. Jones 6.93m; 2. J. Jowett (Keele) 6.91; 3. S. Couch 6.77; 4. D. Brindle (South) 6.75m; 5. D. Smith (South) 6.74m; 6. J. Hulme 6.72m; 7. D. Stanyer 6.70m; 8. P. Mansfield 6.68; 9. C. Edwards 6.66m; 10. S. Jones 6.65; 11. S. Scott 6.63; 12. 20m walk: 1. C. Clausen 1.31; 12.50m: 1. C. Henneman 2.23; 1.30m: 1. C. Seaman 1.30m; 1.30m: 2. C. Edwards 1.29; 1.50m: 2. C. Edwards 1.28; 1.70m: 1. R. Jacobs 4min; 3. S. Thompson 4:07.30; 100m: 1. A. Krikland (Wigan) 10.20; 2. D. Bowles 12.74; Long jump: 1. M. Jones 6.93m; 2. J. Jowett (Keele) 6.91; 3. S. Couch 6.77; 4. D. Brindle (South) 6.75m; 5. D. Smith (South) 6.74m; 6. J. Hulme 6.72m; 7. D. Stanyer 6.70m; 8. P. Mansfield 6.68; 9. C. Edwards 6.66m; 10. S. Jones 6.65; 11. S. Scott 6.63; 12. 20m walk: 1. C. Edwards 1.29; 1.50m: 2. C. Edwards 1.28; 1.70m: 1. R. Jacobs 4min; 3. S. Thompson 4:07.30; 100m: 1. A. Krikland (Wigan) 10.20; 2. D. Bowles 12.74; Long jump: 1. M. Jones 6.93m; 2. J. Jowett (Keele) 6.91; 3. S. Couch 6.77; 4. D. Brindle (South) 6.75m; 5. D. Smith (South) 6.74m; 6. J. Hulme 6.72m; 7. D. Stanyer 6.70m; 8. P. Mansfield 6.68; 9. C. Edwards 6.66m; 10. S. Jones 6.65; 11. S. Scott 6.63; 12. 20m walk: 1. C. Edwards 1.29; 1.50m: 2. C. Edwards 1.28; 1.70m: 1. R. Jacobs 4min; 3. S. Thompson 4:07.30; 100m: 1. A. Krikland (Wigan) 10.20; 2. D. Bowles 12.74; Long jump: 1. 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CRICKET

Warne leads revival of Australian prospects

By SIMON WILDE

LEICESTER (final day of three): The Australians beat Leicestershire by 84 runs

NOT without some contrivance and goodwill, the Australians recorded their first win in nine matches and their first in a first-class match on tour when they dismissed Leicestershire for 179 on the stroke of 5pm at Grace Road yesterday. The county champions had been set a target of 264 to win in a minimum of 65 overs.

The last wicket to fall was that of Adrian Pierson, who was caught smartly at short leg by Justin Langer, who parried the ball before holding the rebound, to give Shane Warne his fifth wicket of the innings. Warne took five for 42 from 16 overs in conditions which did not suit him at all.

Win a pair of tickets for the Lord's Test match, page 7

With Paul Reiffel taking three more wickets and Mark Taylor scoring a half-century in the morning — albeit in relaxed circumstances — this was all morale-boosting stuff before the start of the second Test match at Lord's on Thursday. The Australians had gone through one abandonment, two draws and six defeats (four at the hands of England) since beating Northamptonshire exactly one month ago.

Their path to riches — they received £2,500 for winning under the terms of the Tetley's Challenge — was, however, far from smooth. With rain having intervened in the earlier stages of the game, it had taken three declarations to arrive at the run-chase and there was clearly agreement between the sides that victory would be pursued to the end.

Leicestershire never stopped playing their shots and the final hour was conducted in grim darkness and sporadic showers; a second XI game would not have proceeded in

such conditions. When rain began to fall with Leicestershire 158 for seven the umpires called for the covers, but a group of Australian players pointedly stayed on the outfield to keep loose, with Warne bowling to Slater, and play soon resumed.

Nevertheless, the Australians will regard the result as a fillip and Warne will be pleased to be back among the wickets after his travails at Edgbaston. He came on for the twentieth over of the innings, with Leicestershire 85 for three. Pierson had got the ball rolling by again removing Maddy with an off-cutter, but, for the first time since arriving to join the rest of the squad, he strayed from his immaculate line and length and took some punishment from Sutcliffe and Macmillan, who added 45 before both gave their wickets away to soft shots.

Warne will say he needed luck to get going again and that is precisely what he got in his second over, when Whitaker was given out leg-before to a ball that struck a front pad advanced well down the wicket. The appeal was polite rather than convincing. Whitaker had looked threatening: off the mark by hooking McGrath for six, he had also struck three crisp fours on his brisk march to 21.

Four overs later, Warne had Habib caught on the boundary, pulling Nixon and Wells then played positively in a stand of 38 and it was not until Nixon, who was stumped shuffling carelessly out of his crease, and Ormond, who took the match award for his lively bowling on the first day, fell in the same over that the match tipped the way of the touring team. By then, bating cannot have been easy, given more than mere survival.

Then came rain, thunder, lightning and large pools of water formed on and around the square.

There is an attractive photograph, taken by J G Dunbar,

Rhodes finds winning way

By DEREK HODGSON

BRISTOL (final day of four): Worcestershire (22pts) beat Gloucestershire (5) by 95 runs

THIS first victory of the summer will bring a deal of satisfaction to Worcestershire. Without three Test players — Tom Moody, the captain, Phil Newport and Richard Illingworth — they won a keenly contested derby match with 21 overs to spare, having been 65 for six in their first innings.

Steven Rhodes proved a worthy acting captain, and an inspired wicketkeeper, and their second-string bowlers were persistent and accurate. Gloucestershire, championship leaders at the start, have no excuses. Their second innings was played with the surface at its best, but too many wickets were surrendered.

Gloucestershire would be a more potent force if they could attract a high-class spin bowler — surely a priority on this huge ground — or if they had the confidence to play the two they possess, Martyn Ball and Dickie Davis.

The day began with Gloucestershire needing 363 to win, having lost Nick

Trainor on Saturday evening. They made the worst possible start, Tony Wright being taken at second slip.

Jon Lewis, the night-watchman, struck a couple of blows before being missed by a slower ball while Rob Curniffe was beaten by Stuart Lampitt's first ball, a near-perfect break-back that took his off stump. That was 38 for four and the nadir of the innings.

With Monte Lynch so handicapped by his knee that he was scoring only in boundaries, Shaun Young joined him in raising the rate to the



Rhodes: frustrating

required 35 an over. The fifth-wicket pair added 26 in two overs and Lynch went on to take six boundaries off nine balls. When he was eventually caught behind, having seen his side surge past 100, he had rattled nine fours off 27 balls, his best shot being a whip through wide mid-wicket.

Young was run out on the stroke of lunch, hesitating over a second in a classic misunderstanding with his captain, Mark Alleyne. At 131, with a minimum of 69 overs remaining, the race was viable, but there were only four wickets remaining.

Such a situation fires Jack Russell's blood and he and Tim Hancock spent the rest of the afternoon frustrating Nottinghamshire in a stand of 70 off 25 overs until Russell, driving at Lampitt, edged high to Phil Weston at gully.

Hancock was batting far too well for a No 9 and might have carried the match into the last hour, at least, had not Ball given the voracious Rhodes yet another victim and, with the last pair together, Hancock became another to be defeated by a change of pace.

Nottinghamshire, with a 200-run lead, declined to enforce the follow-on, keen to force Tim Robinson, their opener, back into form after a month's absence through a broken hand. He responded against Chez Patel and James Averis, whose waywardness was an anxious preface to the Lord's match against Cambridge starting on July 2. The South African, Peter Morgan, had consigned the Dark Blues with 41.

Patel was the most effective

wicket-taker in the match, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 329 runs ahead of Oxford University.

REHABILITATION is nigh for James Hindson. At 23, the Nottinghamshire slow left-arm bowler returning to the first-class game after a year of second-team obscurity.

After taking 65 first-class wickets two years ago, Hindson gave way to the experienced Andrew Afford. Opportunity knocks again and Hindson took four for 28 yesterday.

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AN extraordinary match that began with Dean Jones re-signing from the Derbyshire

captaincy because of "lack of support" from the senior players ended yesterday with those same players effectively forcing Les Stillman, the coach who accompanied Jones from Australia, out of his job.

Stillman's future will be decided today when he faces Mike Horton, the club chairman, Ian Buxton, chairman of the cricket committee, and the entire first-team squad at a meeting to consider the players' unhappiness at his failure to rebut Jones's allegations. It seems inevitable that the coach will soon be following the captain home.

In his office at Derby,

Stillman said: "This is the first time in 21 years of coaching that I have not been with my team during a match and also the first time that I have been told not to talk to the press. But I can tell you that the

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Worming your way into an eel's affections

Don Goodwin loves catching eels and eating eels, but he knows that other anglers consider eels a nuisance when they find them on the end of their line! "Hello? Hey, is this that darned eel phoning me again? Do you realise it's 3am?" Don suspects that other anglers think he's "a bit touched" because of his passion for eels. He is right, because the sad truth is that eels are not much loved. When most people — and this does not include me — see a four-foot-long eel slithering towards them, all they want to do is run a mile, whereas I want to run two miles.

Last night's final episode of *Tales From The River Bank* (BBC2), on eels, lived up to the glistening quality of the previous five. Geoffrey Palmer, our narrator, claimed that "you'll find eels wherever there are plenty of holes to hide in and food to eat", which makes them sound like Michael

Winner. Only some of them are actually bigger than Michael Winner. Some of them are the size of mobile homes. Many people are convinced that the Loch Ness monster is a giant eel: a frogman in the 1930s claimed he saw it. But today the only eels that a submarine could find 1,000 feet below the surface were flabby specimens which looked eerily like Les Dawson, but well short of monsterish.

Eels can live for up to 70 years, and they swim 6,000 miles across the Atlantic and back. They can smell the tiniest scrap of food in a lake 58 times the size of Loch Ness, which makes you question the existence of God: why would any omnivorous being give such a sensational talent to a long, slimy fish rather than to, say, Antrea Turner or Dale Winton, who could develop an entire television series around such a gift?

Don't bother getting over your squeamishness about eating eels, "You put it in the water," said Don, like Delia Smith guiding us

because you might then want to go and catch some, and catching them requires a lot of stomach: think Hitchcock. On the bright side, the equipment needed to go eel-bobbing is cheap: on the gloomy side, it involves threading a ten-inch needle with wool and skewering it through a dozen or so live earthworms — head-to-tail — so that you end up with a very long worm-on-a-rope.

Come back from the bathroom, there's more: now loop this round a few times so that you get a series of earthworm bangles, secure them with string, attach this bait to the end of a broom handle and you're in business. Don reckons "the man who came up with the idea must have had a brain like Einstein". And something against earthworms.

Don Goodwin can while away days dangling for eels, staring at the scenery. "If you've been at it as many years as me, you get a

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

feeling for what's going on under the water. You don't have to see what's going on, you've got a feeling. It's true. You've got a feeling... missed him! Missed that one!" Well, to be fair, he never said it was the right feeling.

Don could treble his catch if he didn't squander years in bed.

"Most of us," according to *Insomnia* (Channel 4), "will spend 20 years of our lives asleep." For the one in four who are insomniacs, life is such a misery that they would not only make earthworm necklaces if someone said it would bring on eight hours of sleep, they would eat them as well.

For the past 25 years, Derek Layton, a 55-year-old businessman and scientist, has been lucky to get three hours a night. In the wee small hours of the morning, he cannot sleep for thinking about his insomnia: "I have heard people say that the way they go to sleep is to imagine something very calm,

very pleasant, a world cruise or something like that. That is not calming because immediately my head fills in every detail of how the cabin looks, where the cabin is, where we are on the boat, where the boat is, who the other passengers are." On some nights it must be worse, when he goes all clammy after visualising that not only is he has been strangely dozy about this show, which has lost its old Friday-night berth, even though it is one of the snappiest sitcoms on television. In one scene, Tim Allen and his wife Jill (Patricia Richardson) want to know what is bothering their son, but end up bickering over who would be better at a heart-to-heart talk.

Allen: There's a very special bond between fathers and sons. **R**ichardson: Well, there's a very special bond between mothers and sons. It's what they call the umbilical cord. **A**llen: Hello?... he's nine! He's cordless.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (54843)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (67851)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5252920)
- 9.20 Cheggers' Challenge A plain bathroom transformed (3447104)
- 9.45 Kilroy (T) (992191)
- 10.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (42291)
- 11.00 News (T) and weather (2052253)
- 11.05 The Great Escape Greek Islands (798746)
- 11.35 Royal Ascot Preview of the first day of the meeting (4379830)
- 12.00 News (T) and weather (1529768)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (5721982)
- 12.35 Neighbours (T) (4592058)
- 1.00 News (T) and weather (17678)
- 1.30 Regional News (1565639)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (36851388)
- 1.45 Royal Ascot The royal procession, followed by the 2.20 Queen Anne Stakes, 3.00 Prince of Wales' Stakes and 3.45 St James's Palace Stakes: fashions on the opening day (4142562)
- 4.00 Poppy (124271) 4.10 Plasma (610915) 4.15 The New Yogi Bear Show (T) (6108455) 4.20 Julia Deakin and Hamer Hyde (T) (T) (532098) 4.35 Round the Twist (T) (6887678) 5.00 Newsround (T) (8592291) 5.10 Activ-B (T) (2759494)
- 5.25 Neighbours (T) (535727)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (982)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (562)
- 7.00 Summer Holiday Featuring a two-centre holiday in Tunisia, East Nook in Scotland, and a water sports holiday in Greece. Plus a report on resort zoos that mistreat their animals (T) (2982)
- 7.30 EastEnders Loraine is forced to tell Grant a few home truths (T) (746)
- 8.00 Driving School Following learner drivers as they struggle to pass their tests (T) (1630)
- 8.30 Only Fools and Horses Del takes up cards in his latest bid to make his first million (T) (T) (2415)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (9017)
- 9.30 The Broker's Man Double Dutch Kevin Whately stars as an insurance investigator (235017) WALES: 9.30 Week in Week Out (60949)
- 10.00 The Broker's Man (558272) 10.50 The X Files (613291) 11.35 Film 97 (43307) 12.05 Royal Ascot (832654) 12.25 FILM: Captain Apache (273924) 1.35 Weather (6674128)
- 10.20 The X Files 3 Mulder investigates a blood-drinking cult (T) (T) (640185)
- 11.05 Film 97 with Barry Norman: George Clooney Special The star of the latest in the Batman series, Batman and Robin, and the hospital drama ER, talks to Barry Norman about the film business, his career in television and his sex-symbol status. Last in series (T) (453901)
- 11.35 Royal Ascot Highlights (702949)
- 11.45 Captain Apache (1971) with Lee Van Cleef, Carol Baker and Stuart Whitman. A native American serving with US Army Intelligence seeks revenge for the murder of his commanding officer. Directed by Alexander Singer (T) (601291)
- 1.25 Weather (114321)

Videoplus+ and the **Video PlusCodes** The numbers next to each TV programme listing are **Video PlusCode** numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder automatically. To record a programme, type in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. **Videoplus+ ("")**, **Pluscode ("")** and **Video Programmer** are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

- 6.00am Morning Glory (412611) 9.00 Roger and Katie Lee (72104) 10.00 Another World (31272) 11.00 Do You Live? (7446) 12.00 The Way (27494)
- 1.00am Coronation (40794) 2.00 Sally Jasey (57794) 3.00 Jenny (6140) 4.00 Oprah Winfrey (24275) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (67122) 5.30 The X-Files (313291) 6.00 Royal Ascot (832654) 6.25 FILM: Captain Apache (273924) 7.00 The Simpsons (7458) 7.30 M*A*S*H (6511) 9.00 Men Against Nature (56231)
- 10.00 The Practice (T) (501291) 10.30 The Weather (114321) 12.00pm The Weather (73368) 12.30pm L.A.P.D. (7747) 1.00 Hit Me (134925)

SKY 2

- 7.00pm Superdry (4718475) 7.30 Superdry (501291) 8.00 Princess Blue (5692633) 8.30 Unouchables (6591820) 11.00 Late Show (7333748) 12.00pm Hit Me (274732)

SKY NEWS

- 6.00pm The Wicked Stepmother (1989) (26533) 8.00 Volcano: Fire on the Mountains (1995) (24454) 10.00 Going Under (1990) (51872) 11.00 Hercules (1983) (27054) 12.00 When Time Ran Out... (1980) (5465712) 5.30 Going Under (1980) (2562) 7.00 Volcano: Fire on the Mountains (1995) (26533) 8.00 The City of Lost Children (1995) (35533) 10.00 Hostage Flight (1985) (438567) 2.00 Sponsor: Ceremony (1985) (125673) 4.20 Hostage Flight (1985) (35533) 12.00 The Movie Channel (1997) (47272) 4.00 Bern Capone Name (1978) (47272) 4.00 Bern

BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: Pride and Prejudice (311630) 6.25 Slave and Noble Savage (313755) 6.50 Great The Exhibition (7136494)
- 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) and signing (1845475)
- 7.30 Teaser Mutant Horse Turbles (2002029) 7.55 Blue Peter (T) (2045620) 8.20 The Brolys (4512497) 8.35 The Record (2502746) 8.30 A Passion for Angling (T) (3401036) 9.50 Don't Be an Arando (264185) 10.00 Telebutlers
- 10.30 The Beachcomber (1955) A drunken fisherman falls for a missionary. With Glynn Johns and Robert Newton. Directed by Muriel Box (9193340)
- 11.50 A-Z of Food (T) (6739253) 12.00 See Hear (T) (31165) 12.30 Working Lunch (68727) 1.00 Johnson and Friends (1226161)
- 1.10 Woman of the Year (1942, b/w) Comedy with Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn. A reporter and a female journalist get married and attempt to find something they have in common. Directed by George Stevens (5935245)
- 3.00 News (T) and weather (529833)
- 3.05 Westminster (T) (635340) 3.55 News (333369)
- 4.00 Royal Ascot (281285)
- 4.40 Take a Meal With (430849)
- 4.55 Westminster Special: Tony Leadership Round Two (4738630)
- 6.00 Today's The Day (524)
- 6.30 They Who Dare (707456)
- 6.45 Cardiff Singer of the World Welsh tenor Gwyn Hughes Jones competes for a place in Saturday's final (257727)
- 7.30 Home Ground Investigating private paramedics (T) (388)
- 8.00 Strictly Wimbledon A look at Wimbledon's strict training camp for boys/girls (T) (9272)
- 8.30 Two Fat Ladies A cake stall (T) (8307)
- 9.00 Till Death Us Do Part (T) (7659)



Patten ponders the future (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Chinese Whispers: The Last Governor Charting the secret diplomatic and political exchanges leading up to the handing back of Hong Kong to China (T) (741253)
- 10.10 United Kingdom Preview (613833)
- 10.28 Video Nation Hong Kong Shorts (40185)
- 10.30 Newsnight (T) (603639)
- 11.15 Trial by Jury Young murderer Duncan More points an accusing finger at his best friend (2/2) (533727)
- 11.55 Weather (496036)
- 12.00 The Midnight Hour (49349)
- 12.30 The Weather Zone: Out of Place (6120567) 3.15 The Bridges at Toko-Ri (1954) 3.45 Round the Twist (2/2) (5078607)
- 1.00 A Matter of Resource 2.00 Short Circuit 4.00 Teaching and Learning with IT 4.30 Film Education 5.00 Inside Europe 5.30 Film Education

EUROSPORT

- 7.00am Eurosport (73340) 8.30 Football World Youth (17324) 11.00 Touring Cars — STW Cup (40388) 12.00 European (63088)
- 1.00pm Football: World Youth (261369)
- 1.45 Football: Women's World Cup (261370) 2.30 Tennis Henkens Trophy (261371) 2.50 Cycling: Tour of Switzerland — Live (63070) 4.00 Four Wheel Drive (17320) 6.30 Football: World Cup (261372) 7.00 Equestrian (63073)

UK GOLD

- 7.00am Record Breakers (471833) 7.35 Football: Euro 2000 8.00 Crossroads (705254) 8.25 EastEnders (2105630) 8.50 The Big (547123) 9.30 Film 97 (43307) 10.00 Free For All (261369)
- 10.30 The Big (547123) 12.00 Crossroads (705254) 12.30 Neighbours (5321885)
- 1.00 Hotel Fly-on-the-wall documentary taking a look at the Swallow Royal Hotel, Bristol (173038)

SKY SPORTS 1

- 7.00pm Sports Centre (9475) 7.30 Tennis WTA DFS Classic (13455) 8.30 Racing News (81727) 8.00 Sports Centre (49497)
- 9.30 Aerobics Oz Style (18369) 10.00 High Five (261369)
- 10.30 2010 Ten: The Year in TV (261370) 12.00 Coronation Street (5321885)
- 1.00 Easycricket (346274) 1.35 Russ Abbott (637272) 1.50 The Little Bit of Heaven (637272) 1.50 Big Mouth (6404858) 2.50 Ian Hall: Hot Mum (6369268) 3.35 The Big (547123) 4.00 Boon (737223) 5.00 Northern Exposure (324256) 5.30 News (48498)

SKY SPORTS 2

- 12.00 Grand Prix Salting (5349407) 12.30 The Beachcomber Soccer Seven (2002029) 1.30 Edition (721814) 2.00 World Motor Sport (7358223) 5.00 Womans' 100m (6302156) 6.00 Games (6321253) 6.30 Coronation Street (5321885) 7.00 Gentle Touch (4985814) 7.10 London Burning (4985814) 7.30 The Professionals (6105475) 1.40 Second Thoughts (6104769) 1.50 The Good Life Guide (6104769) 2.00 Surprise, Surprise (6104769) 2.20 Crossroads (7271814) 2.50 The Professionals (6105475) 3.00 Quicksilver (5482454) 3.10 Gentle Touch (4985814) 3.30 The Professionals (6105475) 4.00 The Professionals (6105475) 4.30 Gentle Touch (4985814) 4.50 The Professionals (6105475) 5.00 Quicksilver (5482454) 5.30 Coronation Street (5321885) 6.00 X Men (2205611) 6.30 Spiders (2020508) 6.50 X Men (2205611) 6.30 Gooseneck (3219291)

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THE MOVIE CHANNEL

- 6.00pm Carnival in Costa Rica (1987) (35533) 8.00三角形 (1995) (2445456) 8.30 Sunday Long Legs (1985) (1722479) 12.00 Escape in Japan (1957) (2359) 2.00 Open the Amazing Captain Name (1978) (47272) 4.00 Bern

REVIEW

